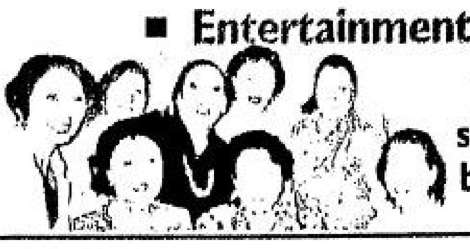
■Lifestyle/J1
World fashion's new darling is a Filipina

■Biz / B1
An Ayala takes over Ayala Land

■ Entertainment / C1



Reunion of stars, oldies but goodies

■World/ A10
US Marines, Iraqi rebels clash anew

■News/ A2
Fiancee recalls Sobero's last days

■Magazine/ Q1
It's great to be Borgy

Film moves thousands to go to confession

GRABE TALAGA YANG "THE PASSION", KAKA-TOUCH!

By Martin P. Marfil

"THE PASSION of the Christ" has moved thousands of Filipinos to go to the confessionals during the Holy Week, catching some priests in Metro Manila by surprise.

FILM/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Jasmine survives 4th round of 'American Idol'

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Filipino-American teener Jasmine Trias, from Oahu, Hawaii, held on Wednesday night to one of the final eight slots in the United States' top-rated talent search, "American Idol."

JASMINE/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Sunday, April 11, 2004 ★★ 102 pages / 15 sections / vol. 19 / no. 123 P18 website: www.inq7.net

24 Abus bolt Basilan jail

Abu leader with $1-M on his head slain in clash

By Julie S. Alipala and Juliet Labog-Javellana

A MAJOR battlefield victory on Maundy Thursday. A nightmare on Black Saturday.

Two days after soldiers gunned down senior Abu Sayyaf leader Hamsiraji Sali—a notorious hostage-taker wanted by the United States—in a clash on Basilan, 53 detainees shot their way out of the island's provincial jail in a mass escape yesterday.

The sensational breakout, led by 24 Abu Sayyaf members, occurred while troops were on a high alert to ward off revenge attacks following the killing of Sali and five followers in Thursday's gun battle, and revived questions about the adequacy of security measures for high-risk prisoners.

The mass escape was the third major breakout from a Philippine National Police jail the past two years.

Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar slipped out from Camp Crame in June 2002, and Jemaah Islamiya leader Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi also from Camp Crame last year. Security forces killed them both in encounters months later.

Officials in Basilan said eight of the inmates involved in yesterday's mass escape were later killed by pursuing troops. Nine others were recaptured.

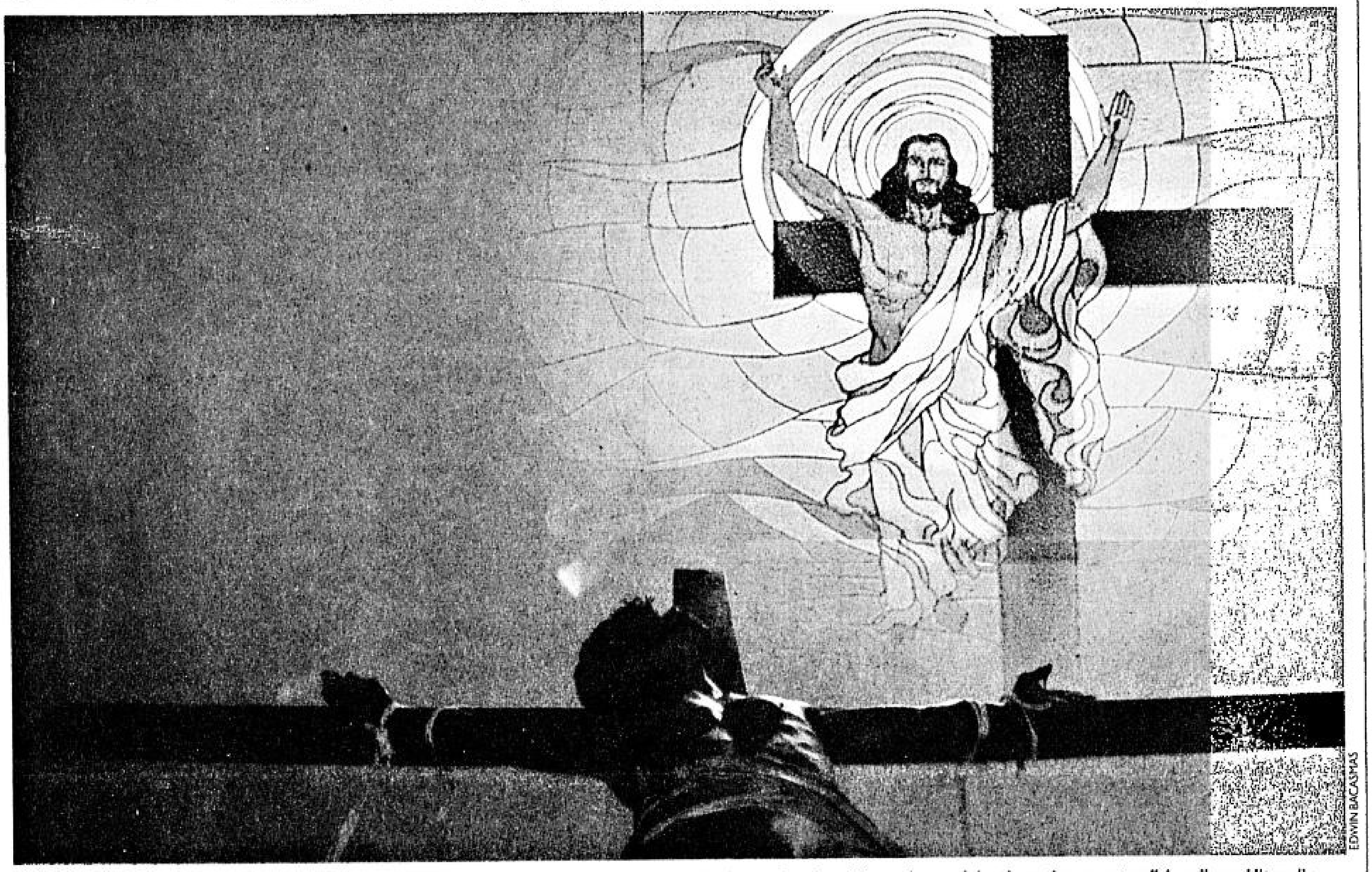
Jail warden Jumaril Sali put the number of those still being hunted down at 36.

One jail guard was killed and three others were wounded in an exchange of fire.

Officials gave conflicting versions on how the detainees escaped.

Christopher Puno, spokesperson for the office of the provincial governor, said the wife of one of the prisoners was able to smuggle a pistol, which was used to disarm three guards of their shotgun and Armalite assault rifles, ac-

24 ABUS/ A8



EDWIN BACASMAS

THE GLORY OF THE CHRIST. Alleluia. Christendom celebrates the resurrection of its Savior today after His passion and death on the cross traditionally and literally emulated by devotees in the country's crucifixion capital in Pampanga (with a stained-glass window at Our Lady of Lourdes grotto in Bulacan in this composite picture).

'Popular' vote not always responsible choice—CBCP

By Martin P. Marfil

DO not be deceived by popularity. A "popular" vote does not always mean a responsible choice.

This was the warning of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales to the Catholic faithful yesterday as he told them to look for eight "traits" in choosing the country's next leaders.

Among these are that the candidate must not only believe in, but "actually fear," God and he or she must be a "moral, honest and non-violent individual in his or her personal, official and public life."

Voters should not support candidates who have links with "opportunist-friends, crooks and drug traffickers," the archbishop added.

The eight traits enumerated by Rosales are:

- Beyond belief in God, the candidate must actually fear God.
- The candidate is a moral, honest and non-violent individual in his or her personal, official and public life.
- The person seeking the mandate of the people is one who serves through principles and not by popularity and propaganda.
- The candidate has a genuine love for the poor and not a created image of empathy for them.
- She or he has a record of an honest pursuit of common good, is seriously concerned with sound ecology, respecting the integrity of creation and its resources destined for the good of all and is not interested only in the advantage of a select group or industry.
- The candidate does not work in partnership with opportunist-friends, crooks and drug traffickers.
- She or he openly declares opposition against drugs, wasteful values and practices.
- The aspiring leader owns a vision that embraces the interest and needs of the people.

The Catholic Church in the Philippines, whose following is estimated to account for 85 percent of the country's population of 82 million, usually issues guidelines for the faithful whenever elections near.

POPULAR/ A22

NEW BEGINNINGS

Wealthy ex-addicts talk of pain, healing

By Volt Contreras

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TO HELL and back—this is their story: From left, RJ Rodriguez, Chris Dychauco, Ramon Rodriguez and wife Deedee, Edwin Roman and Dondie Ayuyao.

AT THE height of their shabu addiction, Ramon Jose "RJ" Rodriguez and his wife learned that their little daughter, their only child, would rather spend the whole day with Lucy than one hour with them. Lucy was their pet dog.

RJ's mother Deedee could not help him. She took more tranquilizers than the doctor described for her depression, until the pills dulled her memory and blotted out her social life. She would rather sleep than step out of the house. The rare times that she ventured beyond the front door and several blocks away, she needed to write down where she parked the car and how to get back there.

Chris Lichauco's marriage and trucking business floundered when he could no longer last the day without a few swigs of vodka. And these he took in secret, loathe to share his precious supply with anyone.

Edwin Roman started smoking marijuana at age 12. Two decades later, he had gotten so paranoid, he was jotting down the plate number of every car that just happened to be a few meters behind, convinced that someone was out to get him.

"I cannot say I am totally healed," he said. Daily stress and unresolved issues still occasionally trigger a relapse. "But one thing that helps me is that I no longer worry about what other people think. We have a saying in the New Beginnings: 'To thy own self be true.' Which is what I've done by giving this interview."

The interviewees are all recovering former residents of the New Beginnings Foundation, a 14-year-old chemical dependency treatment center in BF Homes, Parañaque City. As drug addicts and alcoholics, they have been to hell and back. Now they are willing to tell their stories, not to preach but to open up, which is central to the healing process.

The center was established in 1990 by sons of rich families who had themselves undergone rehabilitation in the United States and decided to bring home the kind of drug treatment programs that got

WEALTHY / A22

A miracle: Compassion of strangers

By Christian V. Esguerra

"QUIET, classmates. The teacher's coming. Please behave now," she tells fellow preschoolers in Minnesota. As if told by the teacher herself, they gather up their things and rush back to their seats.

Ever-sensitive, she approaches her best friend Anna, asking: "Are you OK? Did I hurt your feelings?" The friend smiles. Everything's fine.

This is Jeremaia Matubis now, "mother figure" to her classmates at the Kiddie Cat Preschool in Rochester, Minnesota.

It was hard to imagine she would ever grow up to be such a fine 5-year-old. It was unimaginable she would ever live at all.

She was born with biliary atresia, a rare liver disease that usually kills babies within a year from birth. It requires a complicated, multimillion-peso transplant abroad.

Jeremaia got all the miracles she needed. Her story has since given a face and hope to many nameless biliary atresia patients in the country.

Jeremaia learned to read and write at 4. She also began to draw and speak "good" sentences that early, according to an April 2003 evaluation of Mayo Clinic, the

A MIRACLE/ A9

RANDY HORMILLOSA

THE FIRST humanitarian case from Asia at the Mayo Clinic, Jeremaia Matubis, now 5, got a liver transplant for free.

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COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/11/04

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By Michael Lim Ubac

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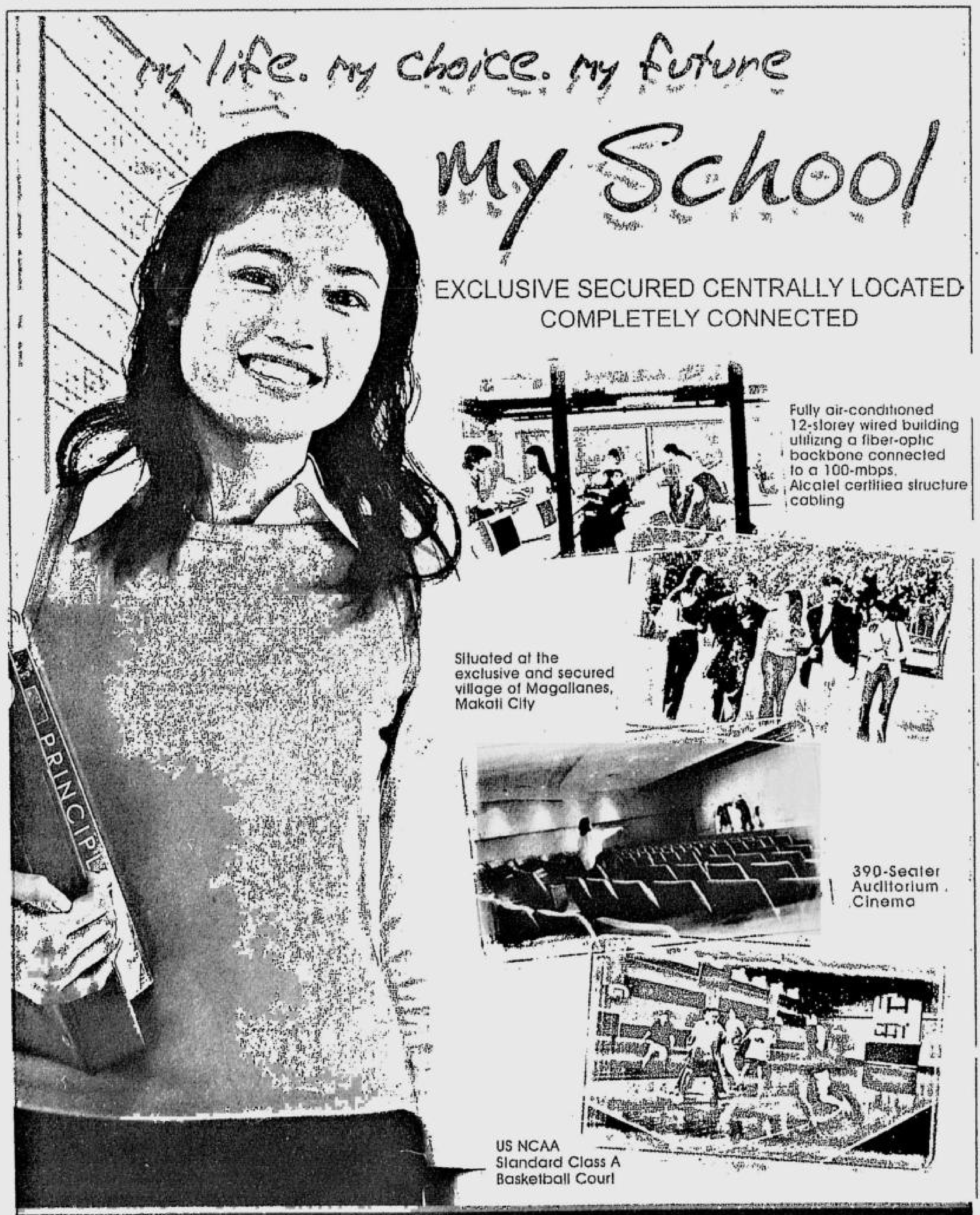
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3 Humabon Place, Magallanes, Makati City 1232 Philippines Tel: 852-9232 email: admissions@apc.edu.ph url: www.apc.edu.ph

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GMA stays visible

BAGUIO CITY—Barred by law from campaigning on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo and some opposition candidates did their best staying very visible to the public during their spiritual retreats here.

Ms Macapagal treated the First Family and their friends to Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" at SM City Baguio on the night of Maundy Thursday. The President's party bought 33 balcony seats.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the vice presidential candidate of the opposition's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, stayed from Holy Wednesday to Good Friday and met with local reporters and guests at the annual media camp at Burnham Park here. Jinggoy Estrada, a KNP senatorial candidate, visited the camp on Maundy Thursday.

The city also witnessed the turnout of candidates from Metro Manila, La Union, Pangasinan and other parts of the Cordillera, whose campaign posters and photographs decorated the vehicles that were trapped in traffic here.

"Of course, (the President) visited SM. It's for her election bid," said Cruzaldo Torres, a waiter at the Cottage Gi's cake house.

The restaurant is outside the SM Cinema 1 where the President spent her private time with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and their children Mikey, Luli and Dato, and daughters-in-law Angela and Kakai.

Like most Filipinos, Torres and Cottage Gi food servers Aileen Degyen and Jane Santiago could not stop themselves from rushing towards the crowd for a glimpse of Ms Macapagal. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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GMA stays visible

BAGUIO CITY—Barred by law from campaigning on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo and some opposition candidates did their best staying very visible to the public during their spiritual retreats here.

Ms Macapagal treated the First Family and their friends to Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" at SM City Baguio on the night of Maundy Thursday. The President's party bought 33 balcony seats.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the vice presidential candidate of the opposition's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, stayed from Holy Wednesday to Good Friday and met with local reporters and guests at the annual media camp at Burnham Park here. Jinggoy Estrada, a KNP senatorial candidate, visited the camp on Maundy Thursday.

The city also witnessed the turnout of candidates from Metro Manila, La Union, Pangasinan and other parts of the Cordillera, whose campaign posters and photographs decorated the vehicles that were trapped in traffic here.

"Of course, (the President) visited SM. It's for her election bid," said Cruzaldo Torres, a waiter at the Cottage Gi's cake house.

The restaurant is outside the SM Cinema I where the President spent her private time with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and their children Mikey, Luli and Dato, and daughters-in-law Angela and Kakai.

Like most Filipinos, Torres and Cottage Gi food servers Aileen Degyen and Jane Santiago could not stop themselves from rushing towards the crowd for a glimpse of Ms Macapagal *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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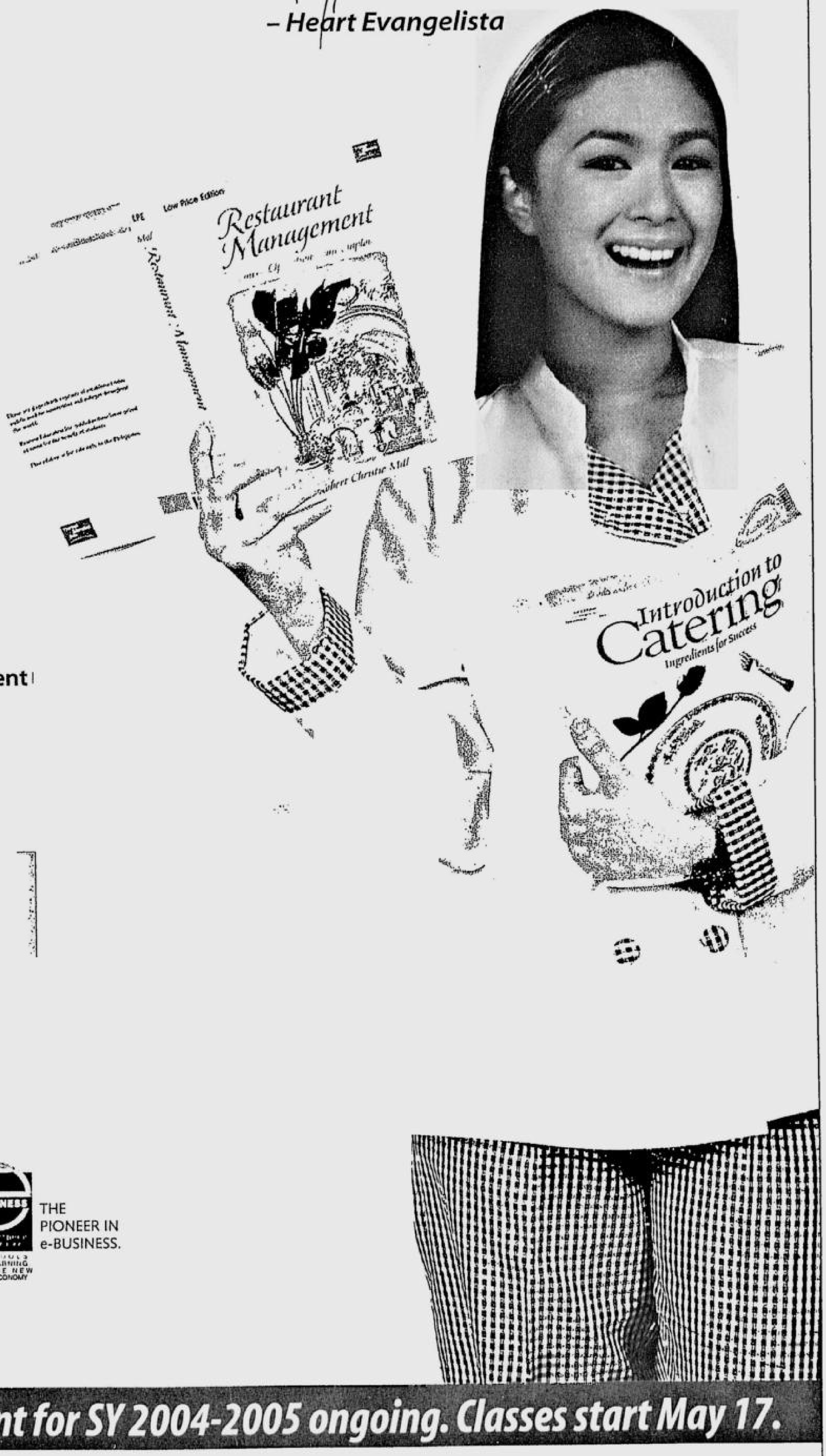

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** In selected campuses.*

Jasmine survives 4th round of 'American Idol'

From page A1

Although suffering from laryngitis and tonsillitis the night before—when the fourth elimination round was held, with Elton John classics as theme—the petite 17-year-old tackled the rousing 1970s hit, "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" creditably enough to keep her standing, if narrowly.

She got mixed reviews from the judges.

Randy Jackson said, "It was a great song for you, but you're a little bit pitchy." Paula Abdul thought it was just "an OK performance." As usual, the sullen Simon Cowell minced no words: "It was average. It was not good enough ... you're not doing enough to win."

In the studio audience were her parents Rudy and Nora, and several friends.

Lowest scores

Television audiences across the country, whose votes by phone and text messages determine the results of each elimination round following the selection of the 12 finalists four weeks ago, gave Trias one of the three lowest scores.

But online music critic Brian of The-Trades.com wrote: "Jasmine remains one of my favorites. This is a very strong song choice, a song that Clay Aiken knocked out of the park last year. Naturally, I was hoping Jasmine would do the same. She started off great, very strong, but about halfway through she fell off the track. A couple of bad notes really soured an otherwise great performance. If Jasmine could try to remain strong, and round out her vowels a little more, she'd be in the top tier of performers this season."

AI producers said 24 million votes were cast on Tuesday.

The other two performers who landed in the bottom three as announced in the results show the following night were Camile Velasco, 18, another Filipino-American from Oahu, and 16-year-old Diana De Garmo, the youngest among the finalists.

The girls were called to center-stage, where Velasco and Trias hugged, cried and held each other's hands until the scores were announced.

Booted out

Velasco, who got the least number of votes, was booted out of the competition. She had also failed to win a single judge over with her rendition of "Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road" in the previous show.

Abdul said: "I love your passion, but your performance was a little bit shaky." Jackson thought she gave "an all-right performance, but pitchy."

Cowell bluntly predicted she had "reached the end of the road." He couldn't help adding: "Elton John is throwing his television set out the window because of your performance."

In the audience was Velasco's mother Rennie, 7-year-old sister Divina, and stepfather, Dr. James West.

The former waitress from IHOP (International House of Pancakes) earlier told show host Ryan Seacrest that the competition taught her "to take criticism well and try to be better."

Trias herself told Seacrest, with a wide smile: "I am just so happy that I made it this far. The most important thing I learned from the show is to be true to myself."

3 groups

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All the finalists promoted the "American Idol Greatest Soul Classics" album, which will be out on sale starting April 27. Then Group C was asked to leave the stage, followed by Group B. The lowest scorers remained for the verdict, the most awaited portion of the results show.

Don't take criticisms personally

A special guest was Tamyra Gray, a first-season AI contestant, who performed her own composition, "Raindrops Will Fall," from her upcoming debut album.

Her advice to the remaining finalists: "Take advantage of all the opportunities that (this competition) gives you. You are the one who makes your own destiny. Listen to every critique; don't take it personally. Millions of people will criticize you (but) don't look at the negative side of this experiences. See the positive side."

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RP seaman testifies on fatal US tanker explosion

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia—The first of four survivors of a tanker that exploded and sank off the Virginia coast testified before a federal grand jury after being granted immunity from prosecution, lawyers for the men said.

The US attorney's office subpoenaed the four crewmen from the Philippines to appear Friday before the grand jury after they refused to talk to the Coast Guard, which is investigating the Feb. 28 explosion that killed three and left 18 missing and presumed dead. Six men survived.

No cause for the explosion has been given.

The Bow Mariner, a tanker carrying ethanol, was registered in Singapore, and the Singapore government asked the United States to lead the investigation.

Ramon Ronquillo testified for more than an hour in the closed hearing. The other three men are scheduled to testify Wednesday in Norfolk.

Keith Leonard, a lawyer for Ronquillo, declined to provide details on his client's testimony. Federal prosecutors also declined to comment.

A lawyer for two of the men, Stanley Sacks, said he believed all four would soon be allowed to return home to the Philippines.

A federal grand jury is called to determine whether there are grounds for criminal charges. *AP*

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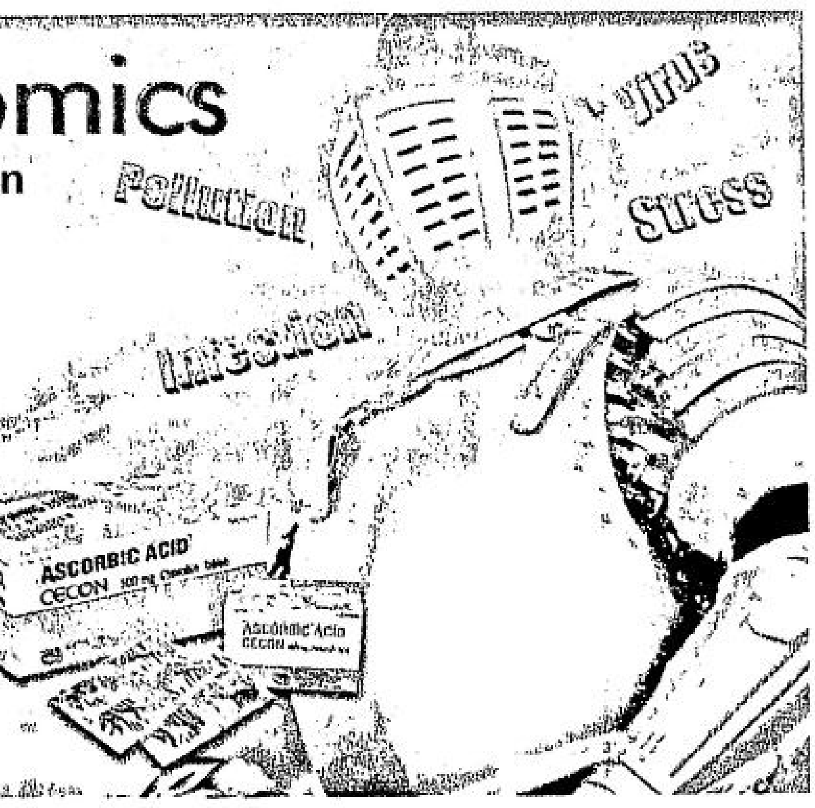

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Film moves thousands . . .

From page A1

A neighborhood toughie in Tondo, Manila, for instance, confessed that he cried while watching Mel Gibson's controversial film.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself watched the blockbuster movie as part of her retreat, confession and counseling. She watched the movie with First Gentlemen Jose Miguel Arroyo on Good Friday at the SM in Baguio City.

"It was a very good time to reflect on the sacrifices that Jesus Christ underwent for our salvation, which has become very, very graphic again for this generation because of that wonderful movie," she said.

In Muntinlupa City, Monsignor Mel David of the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church noted that most of those who went to confession in the past belonged to the older generation. "But this Holy Week, many youths came," he said.

Sincerity, grief

David said most of the youths who went for confession in his parish were dressed like "hippies" or "hip-hops," but he saw their sincerity and grief. "Now they are resolved to lead others to Jesus," he said in a telephone interview.

A change in how his parishioners view sin warmed the heart of David.

He said a teenage boy approached him to say that when he watched the movie, he felt that he was part of the crowd that witnessed the suffering of Jesus. The teenager said the crowd should have stopped it.

"There was a marked development in the perception and understanding of sin. The confessions were more insightful. They kept on reflecting on the movie," David said.

He explained that people usually viewed sin as acts which they committed, but some of those who went to confession had mentioned omission as a sin.

"Now, it's not just doing evil. They are saying that they committed the sin of omission. For many, that is an alien tradition," David said.

Returning to God

At the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Fr. Yulito Ignacio said he and several other priests had to spend more than 10 hours each day on Holy Thursday and Good Friday hearing confessions.

"When they came, I asked them (if they had seen the film). Many of them said, 'Yes, that's why we are here.' Some had not gone to confession for more than 20 years," Ignacio said.

Most of those who confessed said they were returning to God because of the film, he said.

At the Our Lady of Pentecost in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, a priest said he saw children kidding their father for going to confession.

"The children were teasing their father (that he was going to confession because of the film), but he really went to confession," parish priest Steve Zabala said.

Zabala said he also noticed an increase of 20-30 percent in participation in other Holy Week rites in his parish.

Overtime

At the Sto. Niño parish in Tondo, Fr. Erik Santos said the rise in the number of those who went to the confessional could not be attributed to the film.

"We had more people lining up for confession although they are not usually moviegoers ... We had to do overtime in the confessionals the past two weeks," he said.

In Laguna, there were no reports of a rise in the number of people going to confession, but more than 1,000 flagellants roamed the streets in at least four towns in the eastern part of the province, starting Holy Thursday until midnight of Good Friday. ***(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A19.)***

On Good Friday, more than 700 flagellants—mostly wearing hoods and garbed in banana and coconut or *anahaw* leaves—walked on the streets of Kalayaan, Lumban, Siniloan and Pangil towns from early morning until midnight literally bloodied with self-inflicted wounds.

Splattered with blood

Fr. Noel Artillaga, priest of the St. Mark Parish in Barangay Balian, Pangil, disagreed with the practice but said he was helpless to change this mode of penance.

"Good Friday in our place stinks with blood splattered all over the place in almost all corners of Pangil town," Ma. Esperanza A. Espejo, a mother of two, said.

Some 400 penitents started whipping themselves on Holy Thursday in Pangil. They gathered at the parish church before 10 p.m. to join the procession for the "burial" of the crucified Christ.

Mary Ann de los Reyes Leopando, a bank employee, said about 300 flagellants whipped themselves with metal objects on the streets of Siniloan.

Flagellants had various reasons for doing this bizarre practice. Last year, Juling Real, married with two children, said bloodying himself through flagellation every Good Friday for 20 years had earned for him and his family blessings of good health and economic benefits through farming and carpentry.

Barbed wires in Banahaw

Unlike in years past, it was quiet on Mt. Banahaw.

Hordes of religious devotees and thrill seekers were barred from climbing Mt. Banahaw this Holy Week, an environmentalist group reported yesterday. The traditional routes toward the top of the mountain have been sealed off with barbed wires.

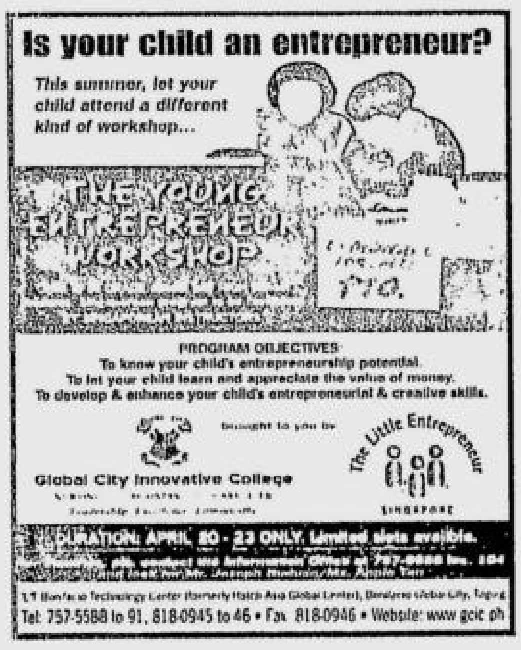
The Protected Area Management Board passed a resolution last month enforcing a five-year closure of Banahaw and Mt. San Cristobal starting this Holy Week.

Jay Lim, community coordinator of the environmental legal center Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Luzon, said almost 80 percent of the annual mountain visitors were absent from Banahaw and Cristobal this week.

The former tent sites of mountain visitors were conspicuously deserted, Lim said.

However, the group discovered an illegal structure near the mountain crater. "The villagers told us that the group's 'Big Brother' has long been wanted by the authorities for alleged child abuse activities," he said.

Asis Perez, area director of Tanggol-Kalikasan, earlier told the Inquirer that no pilgrims were seen at the Cristalino Falls, where visitors usually converge to refresh themselves. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila and Romulo O. Ponte and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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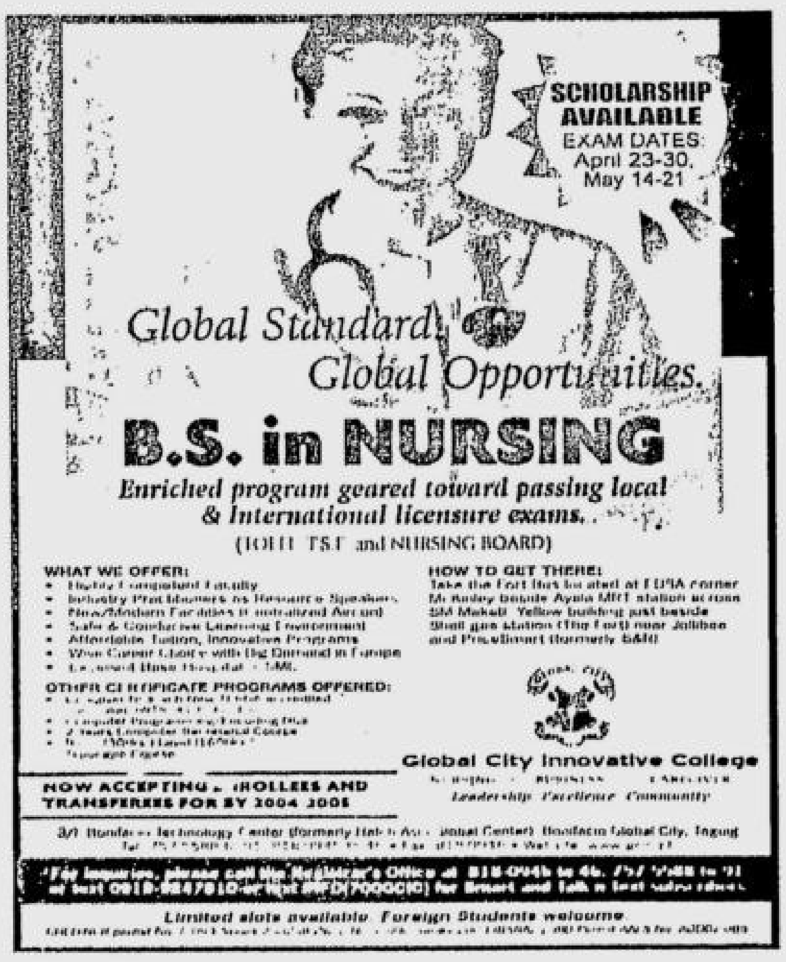
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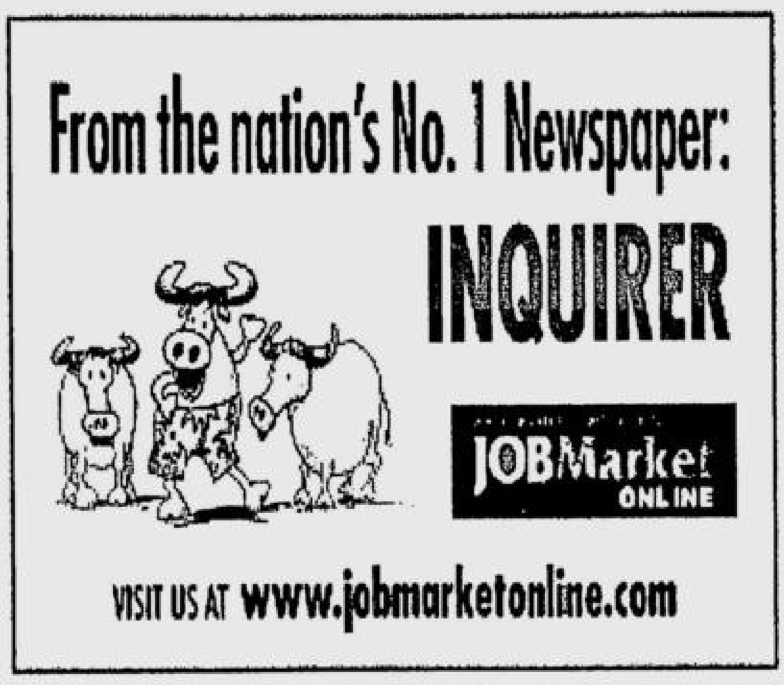
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Deadlocked race goes into final 4-week stretch

By Carlito Pablo

THE BATTLE for the presidency yesterday entered its final four-week stretch with the two front runners—actor Fernando Poe Jr. and incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo—statistically deadlocked and the opposition gearing up against poll fraud in the May 10 elections.

"Vote protection. That's now the name of the game," said former Sen. Francisco Tatad, who is making a comeback under the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

"We're firming up the commitment of our local leaders who will guard our votes," Tatad also said. "We want to make sure that we're not cheated."

In a separate interview, Poe spokesperson Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) noted that with the elections due in four weeks, the Commission on Elections had not yet released voters' lists corresponding to a total of 2 million voters.

"This is on a nationwide scale," Escudero said without giving further details.

Escudero pointed out that this figure corresponds to the supposed 2 million ballots which he said cannot be accounted officially by the National Printing Office.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 11, 2004
Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter then spoke to the people, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. Yet they put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from death. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets say of him, that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his Name."

2nd Reading: Col 3:1-4

If you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9

On the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Commentary

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the essential Christian proclamation. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins," wrote St. Paul (1Cor 15:17). The gospels are unanimous in making Mary Magdalene and the other women the first to proclaim the distinctive Christian Good News. Tradition has called her "apostola apostolorum": the apostle of the apostles. She was the first Christian preacher. She is a patroness of the Dominican Order, which is called the Order of Preachers, and many Dominican houses are called "St. Magdalene's." She could also be seen as the patroness of all the women who have preached the Gospel in countless ways throughout the Christian centuries.

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MILITARY officials cover the body of Hamsiraji Sali at the Southern Command military headquarters in Zamboanga City. Sali and five other Abu Sayyaf members were killed Thursday in a clash with Army troopers in Isabela City in Basilan. EPA

24 Abu Sayyaf bandits bolt Basilan jail

From page A1

cording to Reuters.

Gun hidden in food

The handgun was brought in and kept in the food delivered to the prisoners, Puno added.

But Gov. Wahab Akbar had another version.

He said four guards inside the provincial jail were feeding the 53 inmates when detained Abu Sayyaf leader Mubin Ibba, alias Abu Black, pounced on one of the guards and grabbed his gun.

He said that after wrestling the gun from guard Ejercito Solamo Jr., one of the bandits shot and killed him.

The 24 Abu Sayyaf bandits, with 29 other inmates, then rushed to the prison's main gate.

Akbar said the other guards put up a chase and traded fire with the suspects.

"Lunch was being prepared for the prisoners when there was a commotion and some of the prisoners took advantage of the situation to subdue several armed guards," Army Col. Raymundo Ferrer told reporters.

He said the prisoners shot their way out of the jail, wounding three guards. Some of the guards were taken as hostages and were used as a shield in their escape, Reuters said. They were freed later.

Ferrer said the escaped prisoners had broken up into small groups and scattered in different directions.

Floored with an uppercut

Still at large as of 4 p.m. was Ibba, who was among those allegedly involved in the beheading of Californian tourist hostage Guillermo Sobero in June 2001.

Ibba was the same bandit who earlier tried to escape while he was being led out of a court here, but prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron floored him with an uppercut.

Supt. Angelito Casimiro of the Task Force Turista said most of those recaptured tried to hide in civilian houses while others were nabbed inside tricycles.

Besides Ibba, two Abu Sayyaf sub-leaders, Burahan and Abdulajid Ngayah, escaped.

"We will get them all back," Governor Akbar said. "We will not negotiate for their surrender because they will not after they have escaped."

Akbar announced a reward of P500,000 for their recovery—dead or alive.

Bishop Martin Jumoad said the jailbreak had caused much concern among the people of Basilan.

"Right now, we feel the tension, the great danger is there, for as long as these Abu Sayyaf (members) are free," he said.

'Armed and dangerous'

Casimiro said Ibba's group was armed and dangerous, holding an Armalite rifle, an M-203 grenade launcher, a shotgun and a .45 cal. pistol.

Western Mindanao Deputy Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron said the jailbreak showed how lax authorities were in securing the provincial jail.

Cabaron said he had urged the doubling of security in the jail because of the personality of some of the inmates but authorities did not do anything.

He said he believed the killing of Sali during Thursday's 30-minute clash in Barangay Makiri in nearby Lantawan town triggered the jailbreak.

"They just showed that they are not yet capable in handling cases like this in Basilan," Cabaron said of the provincial jail authorities.

The jailbreak came despite tightened security imposed to guard against retaliatory attacks after Sali, alias Jose Ramirez, and five followers, including his younger brother Yashier, were killed in Thursday's clash with the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion.

"We (have) now totally eliminated Sali's group in Basilan," Col. Noel Buan, the commanding officer of the unit, said after the half-hour, close-range gunfight, during which one soldier was killed and four were wounded.

REUTERS

UNDATED file photo of a US embassy poster offering a $5-million reward for Hamsiraji Sali.

Buan was hit by bullets in the right hand.

$5M on Sali's head

Sali was among top Abu Sayyaf leaders for whose capture the United States has offered a bounty of $5 million. Manila has also put up an award of P5 million for his "neutralization."

Buan said three civilian informants would be entitled to the government's monetary reward "because they helped us in the operation (to get Sali) for more than three months."

Before he was reassigned to Basilan, Buan himself had been a hostage—held captive for 19 months by New People's Army rebels.

"We conducted pockets of encounter and ambush in the area, until we finally got Sali," Buan said.

The military said the body of Sali had been identified by former Abu Sayyaf hostages in Basilan and in this city.

"This is a major victory in our fight against the Abu Sayyaf and terrorism," President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters in Bontoc, Mountain Province, referring to the killing of Sali, whom she described as the highest Abu Sayyaf leader in Basilan.

She noted that the death of Sali followed a "very, very big catch"—the arrest of four suspected leaders of an ASG terrorist cell allegedly planning to bomb key targets in Metro Manila.

Falling out

"So we are really working very hard so that our country will be safe from terrorism," Ms Macapagal said.

"Indeed, it is very important that we work day and night and we work with other countries sharing intelligence, information," she said.

Washington and Manila have linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida network of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Six suspected Abu Sayyaf members were arrested in Manila last month for allegedly planning a "Madrid-level" series of bombings targeting shopping malls and railways.

The Abu Sayyaf's two most senior leaders, Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon, are still at large.

Sali is believed to have taken part in numerous abductions and killings, such as the kidnapping of three Americans, including Sobero, and a group of Filipinos from the Dos Palmas resort in 2001.

Sobero was later beheaded while missionary Martin Burnham and Filipina nurse Edibora Yap were killed in a rescue operation that recovered Martin's wife, Gracia.

Galib Andang, another senior Abu Sayyaf leader who is not on the US list but who was recently arrested, has told authorities Sali broke off from Janjalani's group over disagreements over ransom money. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

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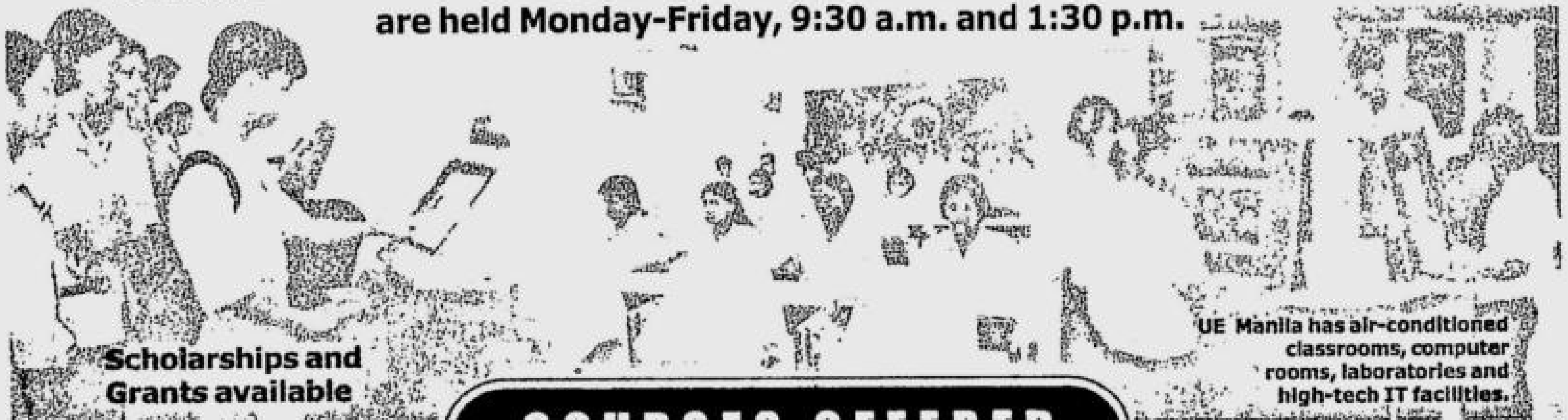

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A miracle: Compassion ...

From page A1

Rochester hospital where she got a new liver for free in March 2000.

As Mayo's first humanitarian case in Asia, Jeremaia got the transplant for free, including the five-year maintenance program.

She has not had any serious illness since returning to the Philippines in May last year for her aunt's wedding.

Her body has been receptive to the new liver. In fact, she's healthy in her lean, three-foot frame, her 26-year-old mother Jesselou told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

"She's not only caught up with her growth years. I think she has even surpassed them," Jesselou says.

"She gets along well socially and seems to be the organizing 'mother figure' in groups of children," the evaluation adds.

American twang

She sounds every bit American, even if she's a pure Filipino. That's because she spent practically all of her young years, going through a battery of tests and medications at Mayo.

She has learned a few Tagalog sentences though. And much to the delight of her relatives, she speaks them in that cute American twang.

And wait till she sings themes from "Chitty-Chitty, Bang-Bang," "Mary Poppins," "The Sound of Music" and other popular musicals. Or sing and dance to Christian songs like "Shout to the Lord."

"I think she'll have a bright career in show business," Jesselou says.

Not only does Jeremaia love to entertain people. She also takes an extra effort not to upset them, according to her mother.

She is her older cousins' "defender" whenever their grandfather disciplines them. She would tell Lolo: "Please don't be angry with them anymore. They already said sorry. God said you shouldn't spank children."

To Jeremaia's mind, she would not have been alive today had it not been for complete strangers from Mayo Clinic. Their compassion was her miracle.

Running out of miracles

But the girl appears to be running out of miracles lately.

She was supposed to return to Mayo Clinic in June last year for two more years of regular check-ups. Biliary cases require at least five years' evaluation to ensure that the transplanted liver would function well.

But Jeremaia and her mother could not return to Minnesota after the US Embassy canceled Jesselou's student visa.

Taking the advice of a female consul, the mother applied for a tourist visa. The request was again denied last October. She appealed in January and there has been no word yet from the embassy.

In the meantime, her family is praying that Jeremaia would stay healthy until she returns to Mayo.

She makes do with medicines the hospital has been sending from Rochester. She'll be practically dependent on drugs for the rest of her life.

The problem with liver transplants, Jesselou explains, is the nagging fear of organ rejection, and possibly, death.

No bile ducts

Jeremaia was born with a liver with no bile ducts. If not for the operation, the wayward bile would have permanently damaged her liver and killed her soon.

The danger didn't stop after the successful operation. She has to take medicines on top of rigid tests to ensure that the transplanted liver remained healthy, according to her mother.

Jeremaia's immune system, in the process, has been weakened by the drugs, making her vulnerable to other fatal illnesses, such as lymphoma and skin cancer.

"She's feeling well all right, but we don't know how long she'll stay this way," Jesselou says. "She really has to return to Mayo."

Dr. Michael Ishitani, Jeremaia's transplant surgeon, had written embassy officials to explain her condition.

One fear was that Jeremaia might have been receiving "different compounds of her important immunosuppressive medications which are critical to the success of her liver transplant."

"We would prefer that Miss Matubis be back in Minnesota at this time," Ishitani wrote on Oct. 6, 2003.

"We are concerned about her liver transplant function and general health. She is a delightful lady who has survived a very difficult surgery and post-operative course. Her continued health is our concern and she will receive the best care, at no cost, here at the Mayo Clinic."

Reason to worry

Ishitani and his peers at Mayo had reason to worry.

In a separate letter on June 24, 2003, Dr. Mounif El Youssef talked about "serious complications" after the transplant. They included "episodes of rejection, autoimmune hepatitis and development of post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder."

Jeremaia is not yet out of harm's way. The complications came under control only because of her regular check-ups when she was still in Rochester.

The child understands her condition, as well as the problem with the embassy, her mother says.

Thanks for second life

At bedtime, she prays without fail, "Lord, thank you very much for the second life. Thank you very much for all the people who helped me."

To the US Embassy officials, she harbors no ill feelings, says Jesselou. She's too young and too good for that.

She has gone a long way, too, for some minor travel restrictions to take away her right to a second life.

PDI PHOTO

JEREMAIA, 4 1/2 months old before her liver operation in the US.

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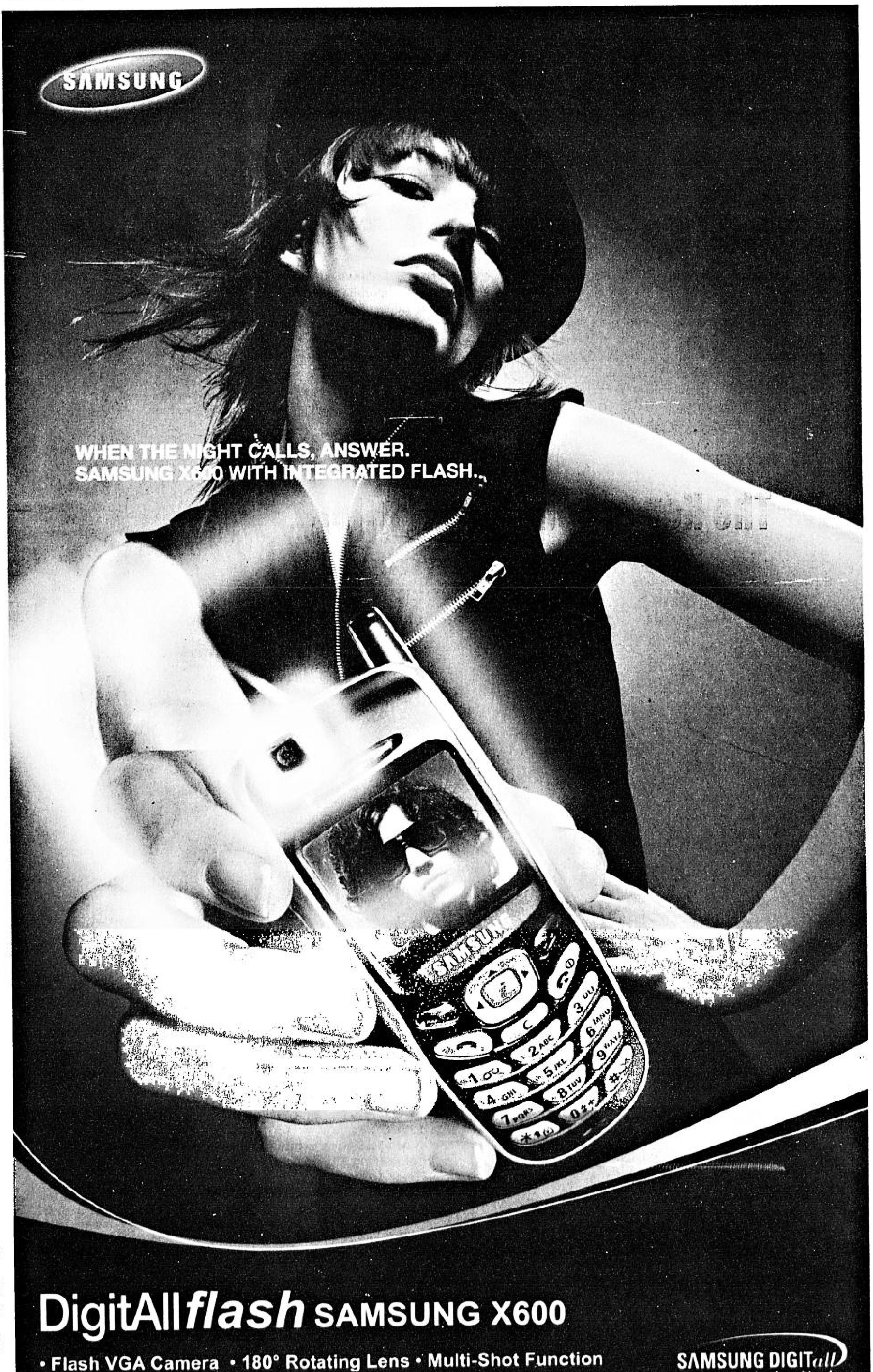
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US Marines, Iraqi rebels clash anew

BAGHDAD—Fresh clashes erupted in the western town of Falluja on Saturday as Iraqi politicians called for a halt to fighting between US-led forces and Sunni and Shiite Muslim rebels that has killed hundreds of people.

Witnesses said fighting between US Marines and guerrillas broke out in several districts of the Sunni Muslim town, despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Americans on Friday.

After Iraq's bloodiest week since the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein a year ago, the US-installed Governing Council criticized "military solutions and the policy of collective punishment that has fallen on innocent civilians."

The director of Falluja's main hospital said on Friday about 450 people had been killed and 1,000 wounded since the Marines launched "Operation Vigilant Resolve" five days earlier.

At least 51 US and allied soldiers have been killed in this week's fighting. Two US soldiers and a civilian truck driver were killed on Friday, the military said. A British civilian working for a US security firm was also killed.

A Governing Council statement demanded "an immediate ceasefire and the reliance on political solutions in all areas of the country, especially Falluja."

US Marines were ordered to suspend offensive operations in Falluja at midday on Friday, but this did not halt fighting.

Battles in Falluja and elsewhere in the Sunni heartlands of central Iraq have coincided with an uprising led by radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr across the south.

Hospital officials in the mixed Sunni-Shiite town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, said Friday's fighting with US forces there had killed nine people and wounded 35.

More than a million Shiites were set to mark the holy day of Arbain in the shrine city of Kerbala on Saturday, prompting fears among US officials of more chaos and bloodshed.

Arbain, beginning on Saturday night and continuing through Sunday, comes 40 days after the religious period of Ashura, when suicide bombers in Baghdad and Kerbala killed 171 people.

A spate of kidnapping has added to the turmoil in Iraq, where gunmen are holding three Japanese and several other foreign hostages.

The Pentagon said two US soldiers and an unknown number of civilian contractors were missing after an attack on a military fuel convoy in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad on Friday.

A Reuters journalist saw two captive foreigners, one of them wounded, in a mosque in a village in the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad. Gunmen holding them said they were Italian.

The US-led administration says more than a million pilgrims are in Kerbala to mark Arbain and has warned it cannot guarantee their safety.

Sheikh Hamza al-Tai, a leader of Sadr's Mehdi Army, said it had suspended "liberation operations" in Kerbala until after the ceremonies, according to a tape aired by Al Jazeera television.

US officials say they fear a repeat of the March bombings, which Washington says were masterminded by a Jordanian with links to the al-Qaeda network to try to spark civil war in Iraq.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Friday he had been surprised by the strength of the Sunni and Shiite rebels, and added there were signs of tactical contact between them.

"It's been a tough week, let's be clear about that. But I still believe that most Iraqis are with us," he told Fox News.

The sound of explosions, probably mortar fire, boomed across Baghdad on Friday night but there were no reports of casualties. *Reuters*

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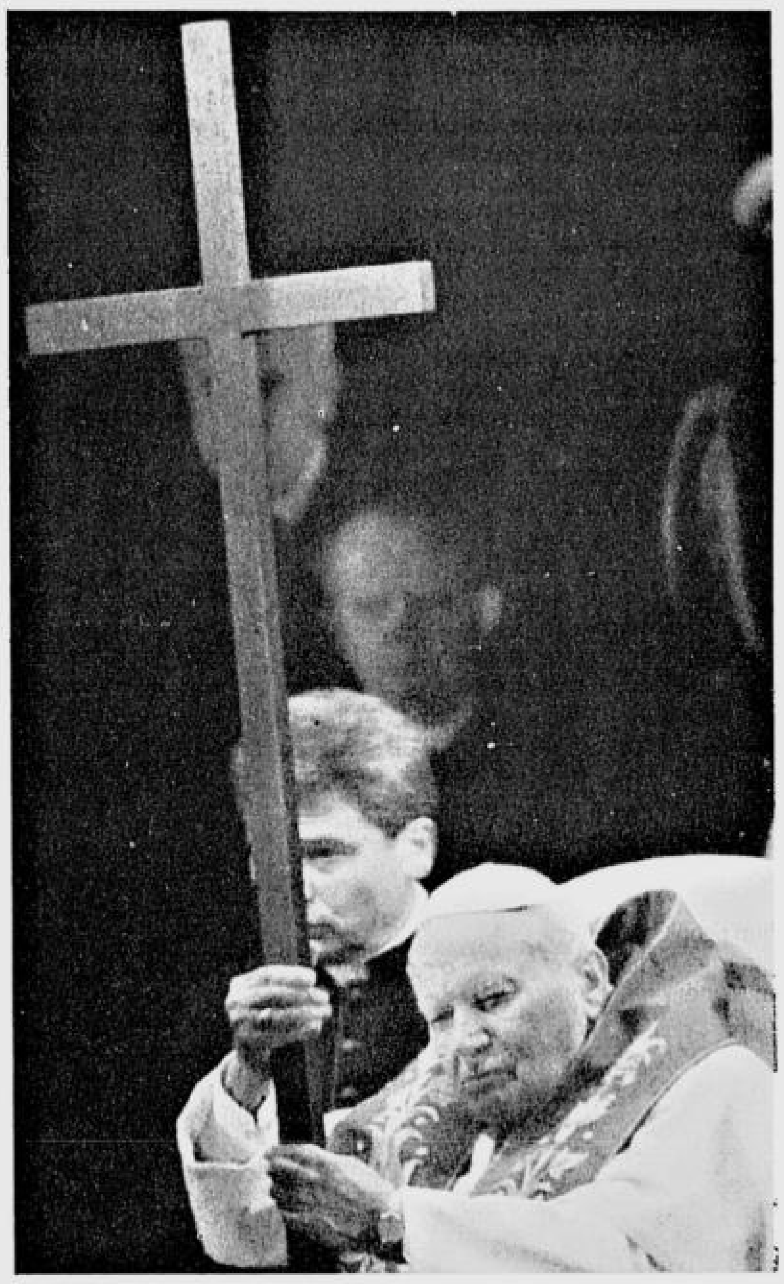

WAY OF THE CROSS Pope John Paul II holds onto the Holy Cross at the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) torchlight procession on Good Friday at the Colosseum in Rome, Friday, April 9. "May the mystery of the Way of the Cross of the Son of God be an inexhaustible source of hope for all," the Pope said in a clear voice. "It comforts us and strengthens us even when we are reaching our hour." AP

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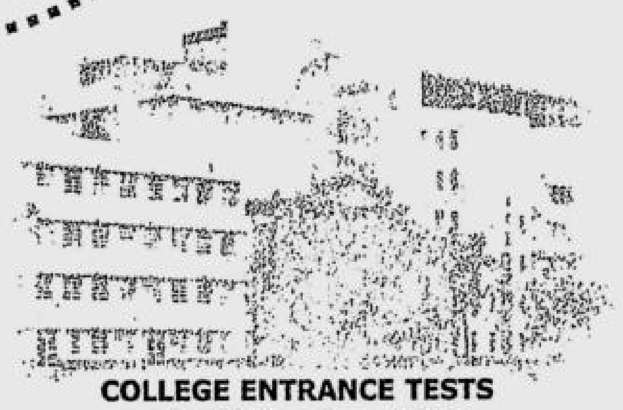

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Abduction of 3 Japanese piles pressure on Koizumi

TOKYO—Pressure was mounting on the Japanese government to pull out of Iraq despite Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's refusal, as the foreign ministry said Saturday it had no information on the whereabouts of three of its citizens kidnapped by militants.

Two public demonstrations were scheduled Saturday to urge Koizumi to meet the kidnappers' demands and withdraw its 550 troops in the war-torn country by deadline of 9 p.m. Japan time Sunday.

"We still don't know where they are. We have no information about their location," said a foreign ministry official.

The official said the government had also been unable to contact the captors, a group of Iraqi insurgents calling themselves the "Mujahedeen Brigades."

The three hostages have been identified as Noriaki Imai, 18, a volunteer worker, Nahoko Takato, 34, a female volunteer, and Soichiro Koriyama, a 32-year-old photojournalist.

Despite pleas from the tearful family members, Koizumi on Friday rejected the militants' ultimatum, saying Japan would not remove its ground troops deployed in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa.

The government had even been considering putting Koizumi on the Al-Jazeera satellite channel on Friday as part of Tokyo's efforts to save the three, but it cancelled the idea early Saturday, the official said.

"Because of some technical and schedule problems, we could not do it," he added.

Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi met seven relatives of the three on Friday, assuring them the government would strive to free the hostages, while stopping short of responding directly to their request for a troop pull-out.

The Kawaguchi meeting followed the broadcast of harrowing television footage showing the Japanese in captivity. The footage was repeatedly aired by local broadcasters throughout the day.

Japanese newspapers condemned the kidnapping but some papers nevertheless called it the biggest crisis Koizumi's government has faced.

Government officials are also talking with a South Korean pastor who told a South Korean radio that he saw the three Japanese being held hostage by Iraqi militants.

The pastor had been also held hostage in Iraq for several hours before being freed unharmed.

But the official said the information obtained from the South Korean man "adds almost nothing" to what Tokyo knows so far.

Japan has already asked the United States for help, while the official said Saturday the government was also considering seeking help from Arab diplomats stationed in Japan.

"We are trying to do everything we can, including seeking help from Arab nations," he said, but declined to elaborate any further.

The Iraq hostage issue is likely to dominate Monday's talks between Koizumi and US Vice-President Dick Cheney, who is expected to arrive in Japan late Saturday.

The United States welcomed Japan's decision to keep its troops in Iraq despite the threats, and on Friday, the US State Department said Washington was actively working with Tokyo to locate the Japanese hostages in Iraq. *AFP*

Bush was briefed on al-Qaida plot before 9/11

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's August 2001 briefing on terrorism threats, described largely as a historical document, included information from three months earlier that al-Qaida was trying to send operatives into the United States for an explosives attack, according to several people who have seen the memo.

The so-called presidential daily briefing, or PDB, delivered to Bush on Aug. 6, 2001—a month before the Sept. 11 attacks—said there were various reports that Osama bin Laden had wanted to strike inside the United States as early as 1997 and continuing into the spring of 2001, the sources told the Associated Press.

The same month as that briefing of Bush, US intelligence officials received two uncorroborated reports suggesting terrorists might use airplanes, including one that suggested al-Qaida operatives were considering flying a plane into a US embassy, current and former government officials said.

Those August 2001 reports—among thousands of varied and uncorroborated threats received by the government each month—weren't deemed credible enough to tell the president or his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, the officials said. Neither involved the eventual Sept. 11 plot.

The sources who read the presidential memo would only speak on condition of anonymity because the White House has not yet declassified the highly sensitive document, entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike Inside the United States."

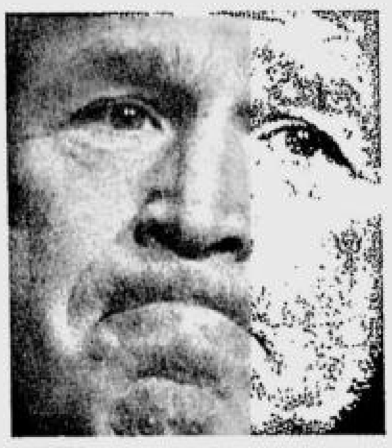
That declassification process is expected to be completed soon, allowing the Bush administration to make the document public in a historic disclosure of secret presidential intelligence briefing materials.

The sources said the presidential memo included a series of bullet items that brought Bush through a history of mostly uncorroborated intelligence that cited al-Qaida's interest in hijacking planes to win the release of Islamic extremists who had been arrested in 1998 and 1999, as well as the travelings of suspected al-Qaida operatives, include some US citizens, in and out of the United States. It suggested al-Qaida might have a support system in place on US soil, the sources said.

The document also included FBI analytical judgments that some al-Qaida activities were consistent with preparation for airline hijackings or other types of attacks, some members of the commission looking into the Sept. 11 attacks said earlier this week.

The second-to-last bullet point told the president that there were numerous—at least 70—terror-related investigations under way by the FBI in 2001 involving matters or people on US soil, the sources said.

And the final bullet told the president of a recent intelligence report indicating al-Qaida operatives were trying to get inside the United States to carry out an attack with explosives, the sources said. There was no specifics about the timing or target, the sources said. *AP*


BUSH

Megawati party maintains slim lead

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri's party Saturday maintained a slim lead over Golkar, the old party of former dictator Suharto, with nearly half the votes tallied from the April 5 general election.

But with millions of votes still uncounted, the race is still wide open, with Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) appearing to have suffered a big drop in support.

PDI-P has won 20.6 percent of 65 million votes tallied so far, according to the website of the country's electoral commission, compared with the 34 percent it won in total in 1999. Golkar was on 20.1 percent.

More than 147 million people were eligible to cast their votes in Monday's elections, only the second free vote since the 1950s. No turnout figure has been released but some estimates put it around 80 percent.

Golkar predicted it would win the poll as more votes are counted from its heartland outside Java island. The party won 22 percent in the 1999 elections when it suffered from backing the 32-year rule of Suharto, who stepped down under pressure in May 1998.

Analysts said voters turned against Megawati's party—once the symbol of opposition to Suharto—because she squandered its chances to introduce real reform.

Votes have turned instead to two upstarts, the Democrat Party of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who resigned as Megawati's security minister in March, and the Islamic-based Prosperous Justice Party (PKS).

Political commentator Dewi Fortuna Anwar said Megawati's declining popularity was partly due to her failure to personally communicate sensitive policies to the public.

"The decline in Megawati's popularity has a positive correlation with the increase in Yudhoyono's popularity," Anwar told AFP.

"Megawati is too aloof. In major issues like Aceh and terrorism, it was the security minister (Yudhoyono) who appeared boldly before the public, just like Bush," said Anwar, a presidential advisor in the B.J Habibie administration. The Democrats were in fifth place Saturday with 7.4 percent, followed by PKS on 6.9 percent. *AFP*

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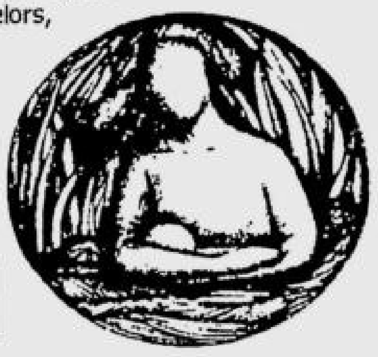

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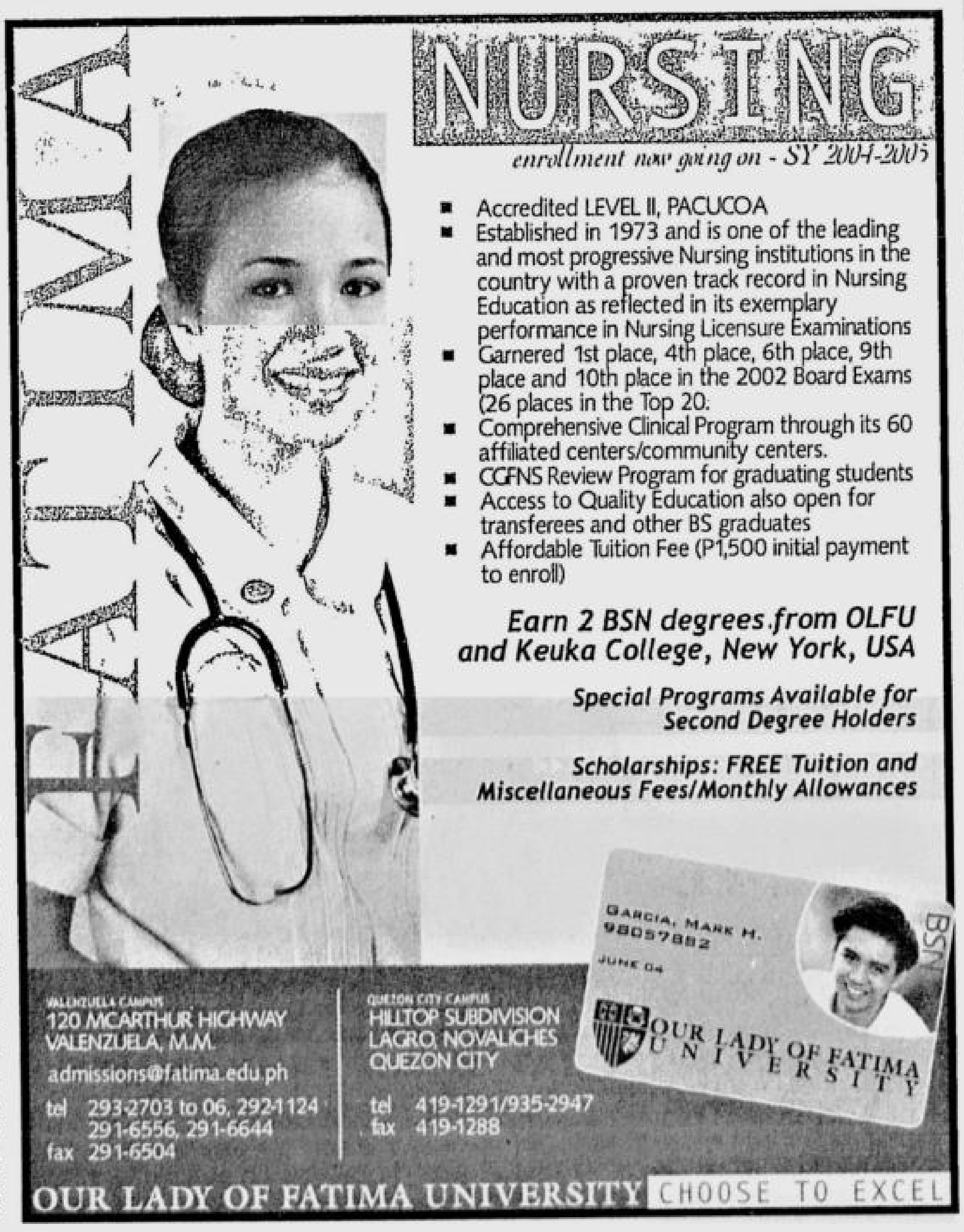

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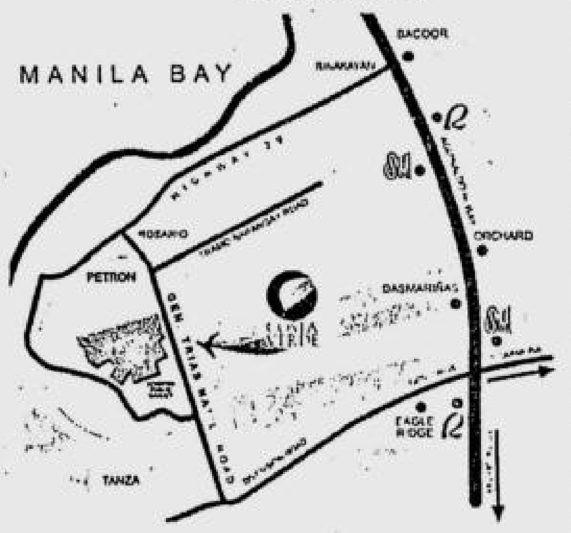

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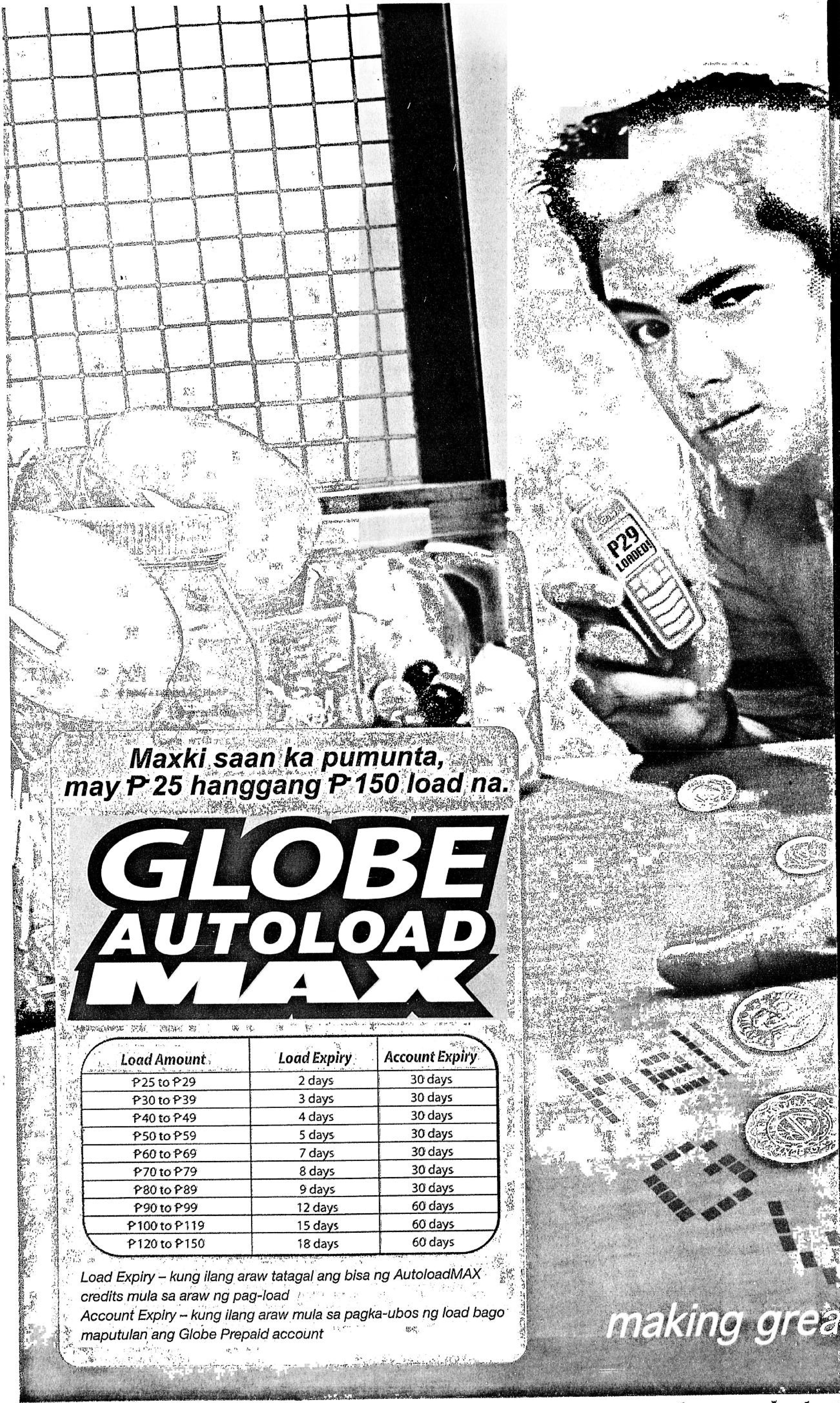

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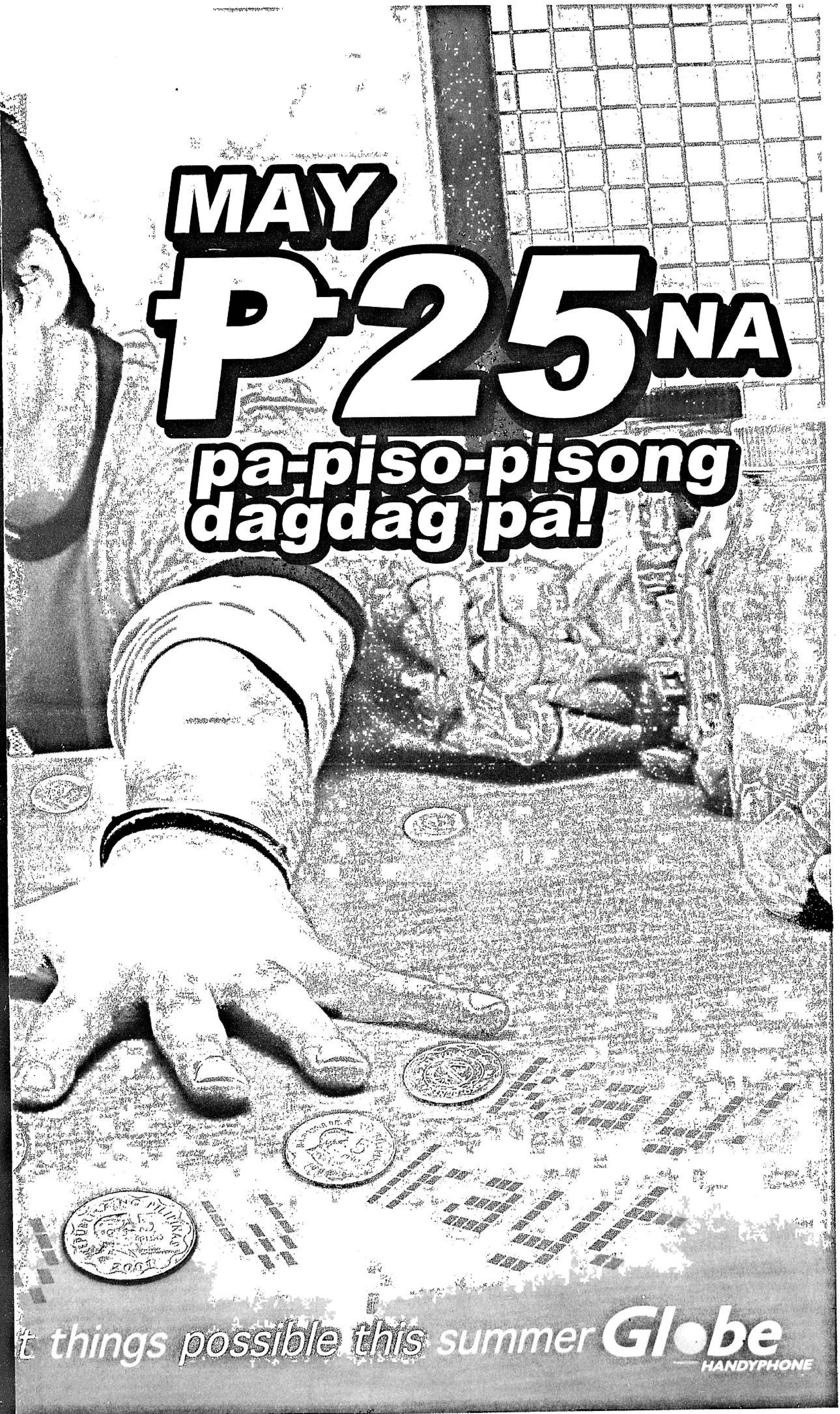
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Politicians and conscience

EDITORIAL

EASTER Sunday may not be a bad time to talk about conscience and its role in the public sphere.

All too often, our political leaders invoke the use of conscience. Many times, it is used as the ultimate defense in the court of public opinion. For instance, deposed President Joseph Estrada, on trial for plunder, has appealed directly to the people several times by claiming his conscience is clean.

Sometimes conscience is used as a weapon in the thrust-and-parry of political combat. When Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon of the Nationalist People's Coalition shifted his support to the opposition coalition on March 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo had a cutting response. "Maybe he is following orders, I really don't know. But if he follows his conscience I don't see how you can support a sixth grader for the presidency." The President, of course, was referring to opposition coalition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., a high-school dropout.

And sometimes the concept is used as a code for something else, such as when Speaker Jose de Venecia exhorted congressmen to heed the "lamp of conscience" in the impeachment case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto in 2002. Judging from the results (the House overwhelmingly confirmed the justice committee's throwing out of the case, despite its refusal to consider the evidence), conscience in Congress is simply a code for a party vote.

Clearly, conscience has its political uses. But a closer look at these uses shows that politicians understand the concept in an extremely narrow way: they take it to mean, simply, "conformity to one's own sense of right conduct" (to quote one dictionary definition). The emphasis is on the personal sense.

Thus, Estrada feels perfectly justified in claiming a clean conscience. Why not? His personal life story proves that conscience for him is a capacious concept, wide enough to accommodate several mistresses and the centralization of *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game, right in the hallowed halls of Malacañang.

This is also the reason why President Macapagal's deliberate insult at Marañon may have drawn blood, but only superficially; if Marañon's conscience allowed him to support an unprepared but popular presidential candidate, hers obviously allowed her to support an unprepared but popular vice-presidential candidate. (The constant temptation to mistake popularity for the stirrings of conscience is an occupational hazard for politicians.)

This over-emphasis on the personal is what senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago meant when, explaining her defection to Ms Macapagal's political camp last January, she defended her decision by appealing to conscience. "I presume every Filipino will want to exercise his freedom of conscience on this issue. But as for me, I choose the side of political stability and, therefore, I choose to ally myself with a leader, President Macapagal-Arroyo."

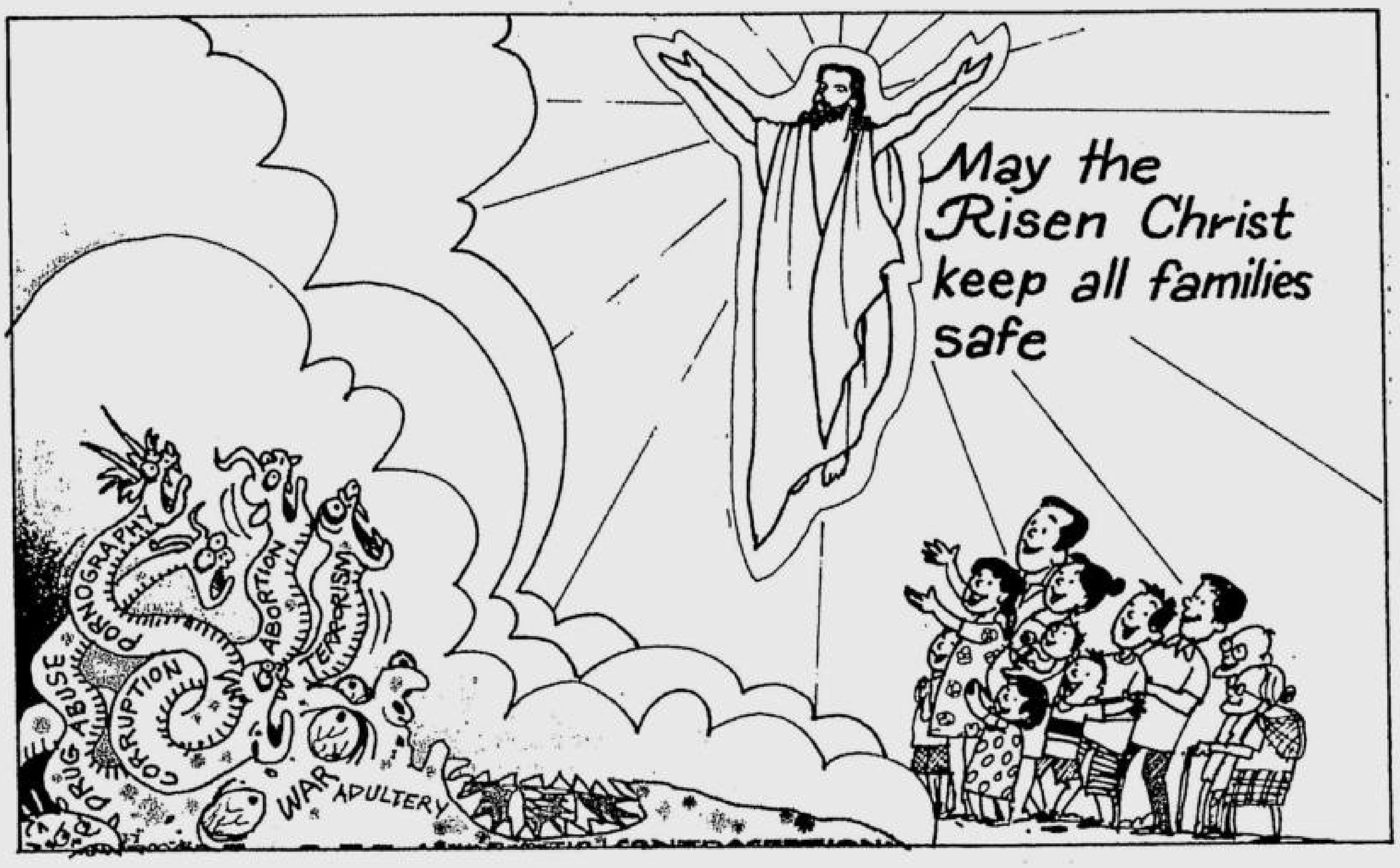
Lost in all this political rhetoric is the primary meaning of conscience: "the awareness of a moral or ethical aspect to one's conduct together with the urge to prefer right over wrong" (to quote the same dictionary).

Conscience, in other words, is not so much an act of knowing (although of course it is that too) but an act of will: it urges us, it pushes us, it moves us, to "prefer right over wrong."

Following our conscience doesn't simply mean choosing; it means (and this is something Apolinario Mabini himself would have agreed with) choosing the right thing.

All the traditional faiths believe in the reality of an erroneous or a malformed conscience. The Catholic faith, which celebrates its most important feast today, believes in this too. It believes that a man can get it wrong, can in fact choose wrong over right. Because the Church rests all its teachings on morality on the primacy of conscience, this sounds like a radical idea. In truth, however, it only embraces human experience in its bewildering variety.

In contrast, the political uses of conscience reduce experience to the act of choosing—regardless of the choice.



Show time!

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WATCHING a television program sometime ago, I was distressed to learn that entertainers are now making a lot of money by participating in the election campaigns. Candidates, including those running for the exalted position of President of the Philippines, hire movie and TV figures to attract audiences that otherwise would not bother to hear mere speechifying from the politicians. They prefer to see the *artistas* sing and dance for their amusement, never mind the parties and their platforms, if any, and the issues.

It was different before, when entertainers did not intrude in the political meeting, where the candidates discussed serious matters and depended on their own skills to hold their audiences till the late hours of the night and often beyond that. When Arsenio H. Lacson campaigned for congressman and later mayor in Manila during the '50s, news alone that he would be speaking filled the meeting with thousands of citizens waiting to hear him. Lacson's wit and humor, with his Visayan accent and broken Tagalog, was always a better show than the performances of the professional entertainers.

This is not to say that the politicians provided the entertainment then; in fact, the people attended the meetings not to be entertained but to listen to the issues of the campaign. Lacson did send the people into fits of laughter when he ridiculed his opponents, as when he said a mayoralty rival could count with his fingers only up to 10 unless he removed his shoes to use his toes too. But he also discussed serious problems, as when he criticized the administration of his own party-mate, President Carlos P. Garcia, under whom, he said, the country faced a dark future. Garcia's complexion was far from light.

Nor was Lacson alone in not depending on entertainers, as many candidates do now, in attracting and holding the audience. Candidates before did not choose to mix politics with show business but depended on their own abilities in winning the attention of the voters. These usually consisted of expertise in public speaking, a natural or assumed talent for friendliness, or a pleasing and preferably beautiful personality.

In the 1937 election when women first exercised the right to vote, one of the candidates for the Municipal Board of Manila was the unknown Carmen Planas. She was a young and pretty law student from the UP college of law whom the politicos welcomed as a novelty but never gave a chance to win in the male-dominated city politics. They erred; she emerged topnotcher and bested all of them. And not only because the women wanted one of their own to win but also because the male voters wanted to shake the comely lady's soft white hand.

Manuel L. Quezon relied on his own charisma to outmaneuver his former chief, Sergio Osmeña, who was also an outstanding vote-getter. Neither of them sang or danced in the hustings to remain the top political leaders during the American regime in this country. Manuel A. Roxas was a spellbinding orator, especially when praising America; for their part, Claro M. Recto and Jose P. Laurel, held the special affection of the nationalists for their unyielding Filipinism. The most Laurel did during those days was to play the violin occasionally, but not as a substitute for his erudition as a constitutionalist.

That is why the antics of the candidates these days are disappointing and disgraceful to those of us who lived through those years when political campaigning in this country was more respectable and less degrading. There was that senatorial candidate in 1998 who, instead of discussing economic issues, on which he was supposed to be an expert, chose instead to demonstrate his skills in martial arts to the delight of his audience. He lost, as he deserved. And yet, his modus operandi has become the standard operating procedure in the present-day campaign, where the candidate's capability for the office he seeks is only a corollary factor and the primary criterion is his proficiency in entertaining his audience.

I have nothing but admiration for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's refusal to sing for his political audience, preferring to talk about current problems instead of crooning "Loren Loren Sinta." His attitude is such a sharp contrast to the campaign style of no less than the incumbent President of the Philippines, who has not demurred at wearing ethnic costumes and participating in ethnic dances to prove her eligibility to reside in Malacañang in her own right. If these be the tests, why not instead elect Regine Tolentino, who can dance better, and Nora Aunor, who can sing better, as our next president? Or for that matter, why not proclaim the comedian Dolphy instead of his *pikon* candidate FPJ aka HBP (for high blood pressure) as the landslide winner next May?

In that TV program I watched, a woman supposed to be an entertainer said that she was available for any political meeting regardless of the party; her fee, she claimed, was P100,000 per song or per appearance—I was not clear about that. At any rate, campaigning for elective office must really be expensive these days, not to say trivial and irrelevant and stupid. Has Philippine politics really sunk that low?

Easter all year round

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a husband who came home late at night from a round of golf. When asked by his wife what happened, he explained that he and his golf mate Fred were doing okay till the 9th hole and then, Fred collapsed and died. "From then on, it was hit the ball, drag Fred, hit the ball, drag Fred till the 18th hole," was his excuse!

* * *

With the Holy Week behind us, there will be a lot of us going back to our daily lives, dragging the lifeless body of Christ as we go about our usual ways and days once again, as if nothing happened. Something happened that first Easter morning, but for some of us, it was something that happened some 2,000 years ago, and that was that.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 1-9), the disciples saw an empty tomb, and they believed. Many of us have experienced the miracles and the blessings of the Risen Christ, and still, we do not believe. We continue to live as if there was no Resurrection, and for some, as if there was no God. For the disciples, the Resurrection was a transformation point. Sad to say, for many of us, the Resurrection is just an information or at most, a conformation point.

* * *

Reminds me of a story about a priest who greeted his congregation thus: "I wish you all Happy Easter! Since I won't be seeing some of you here till next Easter, let me take this opportunity to greet you now a Merry Christmas!" Are you a seasonal Christian? Are you one of those so-called occasional Christians? May we all become in-season and out-of-season Christians!

* * *

Easter, like Christmas should be an all year round event. Let us not be complacent. Let every new day be a new beginning, a fresh start. We have to keep saying to ourselves: "Getting better all the time, and the best is yet to come!"

* * *

Here's an interesting piece about true fasting not only during Holy Week but all throughout the year:

How to fast…

Fast from judging others,
feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from apparent darkness,
feast on the reality of light.
Fast from pessimism,
feast on optimism.
Fast from thoughts of illness,
feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute,
feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from anger,
feast on patience.
Fast from worry,
feast on divine providence.
Fast from unrelenting pressure,
feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from negatives,
feast on positives.
Fast from complaining,
feast on appreciation.
Fast from hostility,
feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness,
feast on forgiveness.
Fast from anxiety,
feast on hope.
Fast from yourself,
feast on a silent heart.

* * *

The Resurrection should give us eyes that really see, and hearts that really feel. Like last Palm Sunday for example, when the *palaspas* became the focus. Did you ever think of the people selling the *palaspas*? Did you know that as early as Saturday night, the vendors were already on church grounds so as to get a good spot to make a good sale?

A whole family camps out the whole night and braves the summer sun to make P300 to P500 profit, an amount which for some of us is "chicken feed." Some people around us work so hard for so little, while many of us live comfortable and easy lives.

* * *

Every Holy Thursday every year, for the past 10 years, I do the washing of the feet of the "apostles" on national television. I don't mind washing the dirty and smelly feet of personalities and politicians, but I do mind the hypocrisy of it all. The nerve of some people looking good and feeling good before others, while they go on sinning and hurting people.

* * *

Are you a bone-digger? My dog is. Whenever I give him a bone, he takes off right away, to hide it from the other dogs, and to save it and dig it up again some other day. May we learn not to become a bone-digger, specializing in resurrecting old bones of contention and dissension. May we learn to bury forever and not continue digging up the old bones that bother, hurt, or burden us.

* * *

This Holy Week, somehow we stood still, and so, God was able to untangle us from the mess we have put ourselves into. Maybe because we stopped working, God was finally able to work this week. Maybe, because we stopped pursuing pleasures, we finally found happiness and peace. And maybe, because we focused, not on what is breaking our hearts, but on what is breaking His heart, we finally found new life. Easter is simply accepting that there is something or someone greater than you and I. God's power is real. And it's there, available for us, anytime, all year round.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to see Easter as not some event that happened 2,000 years ago but as something that I can re-live every day the whole year round. Amen.

Letting go

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THERE are many awards circulating in this town for all sorts of achievement. Some can be bought, some can be lobbied for, while others are the fruits of excellence in a particular field of endeavor. I recall at one time being approached for the conferment of an award. It was accompanied by a request for a donation of P50,000, part of which represented the cost of a dinner table for my guests.

One award which cannot be bought with all the money in the world is for 50 years of constancy and devotion in a relationship with another person.

A few weeks ago, two couples, old friends from way back celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Romulo Espaldon and Francisco Almazora both graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York in 1950 and 1953 respectively. They were part of the training program provided by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 for the rebuilding of the local merchant marine industry after the devastation of World War II. Espaldon rose to become an admiral in the Philippine Navy eventually serving as ambassador to Egypt and later Saudi Arabia. Almazora, known as Faxy to all his friends, left the service early and, taking another route, joined the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company as plant manager first in the Philippines and later in various places around the world like Thailand, Chile and Venezuela.

Visitacion Almazora and Eleanor Espaldon were the best assets in the highly successful careers of their husbands.

* * *

For all the religiosity in our society, the priesthood is not the profession most desired by most parents for their sons. When Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, "Dency" to his family, first informed his father of his inclination for the ministry, he was told to consider instead becoming a doctor or lawyer, "an admired professional." As a compromise, he was made to understand that if life in the seminary was too difficult, he would take into account other options. While he did find life strenuous, he also realized he had a vocation which he was determined to fulfill.

This situation is not the exception. In many instances, parents often promote the idea of having their brightest sons take up engineering, medicine, business administration or law and then giving tacit consent for the priesthood in the case of the lesser qualified. But in most cases, especially when the individual has made a decision on the matter, letting go simply becomes a matter of faith.

Somehow I am reminded that raising our children is very much like teaching students how to fly. In both cases, a critical part is when to let go.

* * *

Let me explain. After obtaining our aviation wings from the Philippine Air Force Flying School in Fernando Airbase, Lipa City, our class was broken up with some being sent to the fighter wing in Basa Airbase, Pampanga while others were retained at Fernando Airbase to serve as instructors for the incoming students. Why some guys end up as fighter jocks and others as transport or instructor pilots is probably a matter of judgment about an individual's temperament and character. Theoretically, the hot shot, gung-ho boys go to the fighters while the cooler heads make good as flight instructors. At any rate, teaching a student how to fly a plane is very much unlike most training jobs.

You start instructions by first taking up a "dodo" on an orientation flight just to give him a view of the world beneath his wings. By the way, a "dodo" was a flightless bird which used to be found on the isle of Mauritius. It is now extinct. The term is now used to designate a flying student who has not yet soloed. Then you demonstrate the basic maneuvers and after a while, you give the student a chance to carry them out himself, never mind if he turns the plane upside down. Next comes the more complicated exercises like the spin. You teach him how to correct his unusual position and to recover from a potentially dangerous situation.

After a while, you start him on the more critical aspects of any flight—takeoffs and landings. In going through the whole gamut of aircraft maneuvers, it is always the same sequence. First, explain and discuss the procedures on the ground, then demonstrate in the air how to perform them, guiding him along as he practices and finally, when you think he's got the hang of things, letting him do the maneuver alone.

What is important is that at a certain point, you must give him the controls. If you don't, he will never learn. If you relinquish it too early, he may not be ready and it could spell disaster for both student and instructor. You determine when the student has fully mastered control of the aircraft and then, as an act of faith, you must let go.

It is pretty much the same when it comes to raising our kids. In the beginning, you do almost everything for them but gradually they learn how to fend for themselves. Along the way, you provide lessons on good behavior instilling in them a sense of responsibility and discipline. We allow for errors and mistakes but stress the importance of corrective measures and recovery. If you control their lives too tightly, making all decisions for them all the time, they may remain dependent on you for every problem that must be resolved. If you relax too soon, they may not be mature enough to cope with the realities of everyday life. At some point in time, however, parents must decide to let go. Hopefully, by that time the children are prepared for the ups and downs that will surely come along the way.

Keep your faith in love

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BELIEVE it or not, as I write this, I have yet to watch "The Passion of the Christ." And it isn't as if I haven't had plenty of opportunities to do so, since the local distributor had been texting me invitations to attend numerous previews, and as of this writing it's practically the only movie showing in theaters.

The Catholic bishops have endorsed the film and friends and family who've seen it are fairly brimming with enthusiasm.

So, why am I resisting? My daughter says she is avoiding the film "on principle," turned off by the marketing of merchandise like "spike" pendants and pins. "Why should they be making money from the suffering of Christ?" she asks. We might as well ask that of Mel Gibson, too.

When people ask me why I haven't done my Lenten penance yet and sat through the film, I usually reply that I don't see the need for yet another movie on the Passion of Christ. "It's not as if we Catholics have any more need for guilt over Christ's suffering and death," I told a friend, "especially us Filipino Catholics."

Now I've found another reason for my resistance. Msgr. Nico Bautista, interviewed on ANC, says he thinks Gibson's *obra maestra* may even be "retrograde," focusing on the physical agony of Christ during His last hours on earth when contemporary theology now teaches Christians to focus instead on the Resurrection. It's not the fact that Christ suffered for our sins that should occupy our thoughts on Holy Week, Monsignor Nico said, but rather the fact that He rose from the dead and won for us mortals eternal life.

It's time we began to celebrate Easter, and stopped being obsessed with the events of Good Friday.

* * *

I MIGHT be eating my words once I've seen "The Passion," which is a risk one takes writing about a film one hasn't seen. And I will probably have seen it by the time you read this. We're not leaving town for Holy Week and one can only take so much of "Lenten specials" on cable TV.

But because this column is coming out on Easter Sunday, let me write about another movie, which is not religious in the conventional sense, but speaks of hope and love and human connectivity in ways that are moving and meaningful.

The film is called "Love Actually" and it was, I think, a modest hit here. I suspect it's destined to be on the list of DVD bestsellers, being the kind of film that one turns to when one's feeling low or blue or needing affirmation. My sister-in-law Soc has her own DVD and one time while she was watching it, my brother walked in on her and exclaimed: "What?! You're watching that again!"

I can't blame her. My own copy of "Notting Hill" already bears scratches from repeated viewings, my most immediate recourse when boredom or loneliness or a craving for romance hits. It is no accident that both films were made by the same creative team.

* * *

BUT where "Notting Hill" tells the implausible but classic storyline of poor boy (Hugh Grant playing a slightly befuddled travel book store owner) meeting and falling for rich girl (Julia Roberts essentially playing herself as a world-famous star), "Love Actually" tells many parallel love stories. Some of the stories fall into the category of conventional romance, but others talk of other kinds of love.

It opens with a scene at the arrivals gate of Heathrow, with a voice-over declaring that anyone who still doubts the presence and prevalence of love these days need only observe the people on both ends of the gate, watching the smiles and the hugs, and seeing the faces of people light up at the mere presence of people they love.

The opening prepares us for the smorgasbord of love stories that could have ended up in a mess at the hands of a less capable director. There's the newly-elected prime minister (Grant again, in one his most handsome appearances) who finds his life complicated by an attraction to a member of his household staff. The PM's sister (Emma Thompson) must struggle in turn with the confirmation of her deepest fear: that her husband is having an affair and has thus, as she put it, "turned my life into a lie."

Her good friend is a still-grieving widower (Liam Neeson) seeking to find a way to get through to his stepson and finding it by helping the boy through his first serious case of infatuation. Then there's the videographer besotted with his best friend's bride, and their common friend, a writer (Colin Firth) who comes home early from the wedding and finds his wife canoodling with his brother. Seeking solace, he holes up in a cottage in Provence and quickly falls in love with his Portuguese housekeeper.

* * *

THE SWEETEST and purest of these lovey-dovey pairs happen to be actors making an X-rated film. Even as they rehearse and perform the kinkiest sex scenes, the pair get to know each other better, tentatively exploring what they have in common and living out the oldest and most common love story in the world.

But the oddest pairing is that of the aging rock star making an improbable comeback (with a Christmas song) and his long-time manager, the only person, the singer realizes, who has stood by him through success and failure, fame and notoriety, and through his many crazy antics and embarrassing scenes.

What does "Love Actually" tell us about love? That love is found—and lost—wherever, whenever and in whomever. That there is no telling where and from whom comfort, solace, companionship, romance and friendship will emerge, but that what's important is that one keeps one's heart ready and open, for love can come in the most improbable of packages and circumstances.

Keep your faith in love and love will enter your life. That's as real an Easter message as any I know of!

Waiting for a messiah

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT is significant that Lent this year comes before a major election in our country. The current campaign gives us a chance to reflect on the roots of our most persistent problems, while the coming of a new government after May brings with it the expectation of release from these problems.

The association between Christ's passion, death and resurrection, on one hand, and the continuing struggle of the Filipino nation for a better life, on the other, is of particular saliency these days. I myself do not recall a time when we have felt so desperate and so needful of redemption as today. I do not mean this in the sense of feeling more impoverished or more oppressed. I liken it rather to the feeling of being strapped to a stationary vehicle that moves and turns but ultimately goes nowhere.

That feeling translates to a conviction shared by many that whoever wins in May will not make any difference to the way the country is being run. Corruption will continue unabated because it is precisely built into the expensive electoral system. Economic growth will remain sluggish and uneven because of its excessive dependence on foreign capital. The poor will multiply and become more resentful because the state is increasingly unable to intervene in their behalf. Criminality and political instability will continue to block the nation's path to progress as the structure of opportunity collapses for the many. Endless politicking will further weaken our remaining institutions. And the social trust that binds us as a nation will finally be exhausted.

Over the years we have seen how our leaders have proved inadequate to the enormity of the problems we face. The graver our problems become the more we turn to leaders we believe to be possessed of magical and extraordinary qualities. The more fragmented we become as a nation, the more frantic our search for strong leaders who can show us the way to salvation.

Without realizing it, we have actually been searching for a political messiah, someone who can lead and inspire us to become what we imagine ourselves to be—a great people. We have always felt we deserve better leaders, and so we have tended to measure the ones we have against unattainable ideals. The result has been an unrelieved frustration that every year heightens our despair.

In all this, we are probably reenacting the childlike quest for a healing God who can wipe out all our doubts, illnesses and our sins with a single touch and replace these with a life of joy and peace. Such a quest is very strong in our Christian tradition and revisits us regularly at Lent like a positive neurosis. One wishes that someone, who understands how Jesus of Nazareth began attracting crowds by his healing powers, could draw a theology of self-liberation by means of faith. It would help us greatly in our search for a redemptive politics for our time.

Such a theology could be glimpsed from the fascinating book, "Jesus of Nazareth," by the Jesuit theologian Raymund Schwager. By chance I picked up this book recently and had been reading it. Schwager attempts an imaginative reconstruction of the life of Jesus, not unlike Mel Gibson's creative re-telling of Christ's last moments on film. What strikes me about Schwager's work, however, is the way he focuses on Christ's own gradual self-understanding of his gifts and of the purpose of his own life in the course of his encounter with other people.

"In the evening Jesus spoke to the crowd, who still knew nothing of peace and joy: 'The Lord brings peace like a river to Israel. He forgives everyone his sins and heals the broken-hearted. He makes the deserted vineyards bloom anew and turns the heart of the fathers to the sons and the hearts of the sons to the fathers. Forgive one another, just as the Lord no longer remembers your offenses! Blessed are they who work for peace.'"

The crowd wasn't sure how to react to this man who spoke of a loving God and the virtue of forgiveness. "Though his speaking had still sparked no response, he gave himself profoundly over to the desire and distress of those who came to him. He kneeled down to the little ones, and a liberating power went from him upon the numerous sick people. Those healed began to shout and soon they drew the crowd with them.... He walked out into the night. Questions stirred within him, questions which he had to take to his Abba in prayer. Already in the short time of his mission he had been able to perceive how a spark of trust had flashed between the sick and himself." They hailed him for his healing powers, but his preachings produced no such responses at first. The crowds were always waiting for miracles, as if this was a precondition for listening to what he was saying.

The true miracle of Christ seems to me to proceed from the "spark of trust" that he created between him and the people who gathered around him wherever he went. That trust brought out the best in people, and restored their faith in themselves.

It is amazing how the absence of trust in a community can weaken its members and reduce them to a point where they are totally stripped of self-confidence. Such collective demoralization is the single most important malaise gripping our country today. Our people's quest for an inspiring leader who can break this demoralization is nothing less than a search for a messiah. They may often seem as if they are constantly waiting for miracles. In truth, they are only looking for someone who can heal the cynicism and distrust in their hearts.

Happy Easter!

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

'Till death do us part'

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

ONE of the things I enjoy most about the Lenten season is the opportunity it gives me to catch up on my readings. There is so much good literature available, but very little time to read them.

Tomorrow, it's back to the stresses and tensions of daily living. The candidates in the May 10 elections will, once again, bombard our senses with their raucous campaign jingles and inane speeches.

In keeping with the "feel good" atmosphere of today's Easter Sunday celebration, let me share with you a news report I read in the International Herald Tribune about love and marriage. I know it's been two months since Valentine's Day, but who cares? Stories about that important facet of human life never go out of fashion.

The report is about a law enacted in 1959 by the French National Assembly allowing the marriage of a dead person to his or her surviving boyfriend or girlfriend so the latter can enjoy, although in a limited sense, the rights and privileges that go with that status.

The person desiring to marry a deceased lover has to write to the French president expressing his or her desire to enter into that marital relationship. The president forwards the letter to the justice minister who, in turn, endorses it for evaluation by the prosecutor of the place where the requesting party resides.

The prosecutor has to determine if the couple had plans to get married before death overtook one of the parties and whether the parents of the deceased approve of the marriage. The prosecutor then makes his recommendation on the requested postmortem marriage.

Ceremony

If the prosecutor favorably endorses the marriage, the French president will decide on whether or not to allow it. The matter is addressed to his sound judgment. He is guided in that decision only by his heart and conscience. With the stroke of his pen, he can make come true a dream that was aborted by the sudden death of one of its dreamers.

In weddings held under this law, the bride or groom, as the case may be, usually attends the ceremony in clothes that he or she feels like wearing. There is no color code—black, white or whatever colors the living partner may consider appropriate for the occasion.

The site of the wedding has the usual trimmings—flowers, bells, carpet—that accompany rites that unite in matrimony two people in love. Wedding sponsors and guests are invited, and usually attend, to witness the proceedings.

An empty chair represents the deceased member of the entourage. In lieu of the vows that the couple is supposed to pronounce to each other, the officiating official simply reads the presidential decree authorizing the marriage.

For obvious reasons, the usual exchange of wedding rings is not possible in this kind of setting. But that does not prevent the bride or groom from requesting that the ritual be followed, surreal as it may appear to be.

Also, depending on the wishes of the living partner, the ceremony includes the traditional throwing of rice on the betrothed parties and wedding reception. Since it's the bride's or groom's "big day," he or she has the final say on how it will be celebrated.

Effects

Except for the physical absence of one of the parties, the posthumous marriage is no different from one where the betrothed parties are alive to personally profess their love for each other till death parts them.

This kind of marriage is often entered into for sentimental reasons. The surviving partner wants to have an indelible memento of a love that death had rudely interrupted. But the posthumous nuptial becomes significant if the woman is pregnant with the child of her deceased boyfriend because under French law the child is considered an heir to the father's estate.

The "man and wife" declaration by the officiating official authorizes the woman to carry her husband's surname and indicate her civil status in official documents as "widow." The marital status retroacts to the date of the groom's death, not from the date of the solemnization of the marriage, as is the case of marriages between living persons.

However, to avoid the exploitation of the law by scheming parties, the law prohibits the surviving spouse from inheriting from the deceased on the basis of the marriage alone. The restriction is aimed at making sure the wedding was entered into for romantic reasons, not in anticipation of enjoying the wealth that the departed partner may leave behind.

In a case cited in the news report, a woman, who had herself artificially inseminated with the sperm of her late boyfriend, was not given permission to enter into the postmortem marriage she requested. Apparently, the French authorities were suspicious about the real intentions of the woman in creating a rather belated heir to the boyfriend's estate.

Local rules

The French law reminded me of some scenes I've seen on local television of Filipino girls insisting on marrying their boyfriends who died due to violent causes a few days or weeks before their scheduled wedding. With the prospective groom lying in the coffin, the grieving bride, who is dressed in the traditional white bridal gown, says her vows before a priest who agreed to "solemnize" the marriage.

There is none of the smiles or congratulatory messages that usually accompany the standard marriage ceremony. Instead, the occasion is characterized by tears and expressions of sorrow about a love affair that was aborted by a cruel twist of fate.

Unfortunately for bereaved Filipino love birds, posthumous marriages are not recognized in our country. For a marriage to be considered valid and binding under our laws, it is essential that the consent of the parties who are getting married be freely given before a person authorized to solemnize marriages.

Written communications about the deceased partner's intention to marry the loved one he or she left behind, or statements by third parties about the lovers' plan to tie the knot, cannot replace that consent requirement. The words "I do" should come from the lips of the groom or bride during the marriage ceremony.

This requirement is strictly observed because the marriage relationship imposes duties and responsibilities on the marrying parties, their properties and, in case of death of either one, on their respective estates.

With the French law on posthumous marriage, the French indeed deserve the reputation as the most romantic people in the world.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELEKSYON 2004

Senate bets speak on Charter change

AFTER featuring the stand of the presidential and vice presidential candidates on economic, political and social concerns, we are publishing today the positions of senatorial candidates on Charter change and on the parliamentary form of government.

Almost all of the senatorial candidates are for Charter change, with 11 favoring amendments through a constitutional convention. Ten are for a parliamentary form of government while three are for a federal setup. Some would rather have a referendum first to consult the people on what form of government they want.

We also asked the senatorial candidates to give their stand on 16 other issues—pork barrel, repeal of the law allowing for automatic debt appropriation, pullout of Philippine troops from Iraq, people power, population and family planning, death penalty, legislated minimum wages, Erap pardon, legalization of *jueteng*, divorce, abortion, gay rights, lifting of the 40-percent limit on foreign ownership of public utilities, and ownership of land and media outfits by foreigners.

In the succeeding issues of Talk of the Town, we will feature the stand of the senatorial candidates on these topics.

Candidates	Charter change and shift to parliamentary form of government
Alvarez, Heherson Independent	The check and balance scheme of the presidential system is unwieldy. The president is a "democratic autocrat" gilded with the trappings of monarchy. A prime minister is far more accountable, especially during the parliamentary debates, question hour or on a vote of no confidence. The prime minister can be changed without exiling him or jailing him.
Barbers, Robert K-4 Coalition	I am for Charter change, which Congress may choose to work on before 2007. Our Constitution needs to be changed for it to be responsive to the present situation. I am even willing to sacrifice half of my term if once again elected, so we can amend with dispatch our Constitution.
Biazon, Rodolfo K-4 Coalition	Yes, but through a constitutional convention and not through a constituent assembly of Congress.
Cayetano, Pia K-4 Coalition	Several provisions of the Constitution are no longer attuned with the present political and economic situation. These therefore necessitate an amendment thereof to enable government to be responsive to the needs of the people. But it should be done through a constitutional convention.
Chavez, Frank Alyansa ng Pag-asa	We can have Charter change and parliamentary form of government. There are requirements that can make the concept workable. There should be a strong two-party system, and each party must have a well-defined ideology, or political philosophy. There should be a well-defined party loyalty and it shall be unlawful for anybody to cross over to the other party.
Coo, Olivia "Bong" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	Alyansa has made a position that any move to tinker with the fundamental law should be done through a constitutional convention. I will support whatever is the stand of Alyansa.
Dilangalen, Didagen Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP)	There is nothing wrong with the present system, although some provisions of the Constitution may require amendments. The problem is the people running the system.
Enrile, Juan Ponce KNP	I favor a shift in our form of government and revisions in specific provisions of the Constitution, which hinder political and economic growth. But I opposed the recent move to effect amendments to the Charter through a constituent assembly. I believe the people would rather have elected delegates to a constitutional convention.
Escudero, Sonny KNP	I favor Charter change and a shift to the parliamentary form of government for two reasons. It is more efficient as regard funding requirements and passage of needed legislation. It will promote cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government instead of the usual antagonistic relation they have under the present system.
Estrada, Jinggoy KNP	Yes, provided that it is conducted through a constitutional convention. If there's a majority supporting a shift to a parliamentary form of government, I will go for it.
Gatmaytan, Nicanor, Jr. Alyansa ng Pag-asa	It should be amended through a constitutional convention. And there are only certain amendments that should be made, not the whole Constitution. A referendum should be held first to determine if people approve of amending the Charter.
Gordon, Richard K-4 Coalition	I'm for Charter change, specifically for longer term limits and faster recall process. I'm for amendments that will strengthen the party system, particularly to stop party switching. This will allow for continuity and integrity.
Herrera, Ernesto Alyansa ng Pag-asa	The people should decide through a referendum, preferably held simultaneously with the national elections, whether they want to amend the Constitution, and if they do, what mode to use (constituent assembly or constitutional convention) and what are the parameters of such amendments.
Hussin, Parouk K-4 Coalition	I favor Charter change and a shift either to parliamentary or federalist form of government. This is one mechanism to ensure that smaller regions like those in Mindanao will be assured of representation in government. With the present system, electing a Mindanaon to the Senate is a very difficult and costly process.
Jaworski, Robert K-4 Coalition	I am a signatory to the Senate resolution calling for a constitutional convention to amend certain provisions, which impede the growth of our economy. Regarding the shift to the parliamentary form of government, I think that the issue must still be put to greater debate.
Joson, Edno Alyansa ng Pag-asa	It's not the form of government but leadership by example that is important. Alyansa's stand is that the people should be consulted through a referendum if they want to change the Constitution.
Lapid, Lito K-4 Coalition	So many of our laws are not being implemented. Take the case of "no plate, no travel" rule for motor vehicles, which has been with us since 1912. People were surprised when it was implemented recently. This is where the parliamentary form can help. Under this setup, the executive branch is member of the legislative branch.
Lim, Alfredo KNP	If there is Charter change, it should be through a constitutional convention not a constituent assembly. But we must retain the presidential form as it suits our culture and tradition. Besides, it is not the form that counts most but the men running the government.
Maceda, Ernesto KNP	I favor doing it by constitutional convention, but it has to be done within the first six months. Otherwise, it will get embroiled in politics. I'm not convinced that a change in the system of government will improve our governance, but if there is a clear majority supporting a parliamentary system, I will not oppose it.
Madrigal, Jamby KNP	It's about time we change certain provisions in the Constitution, which give awesome powers to the presidency, making local autonomy a farce. The answer is a shift to a federal system of government for local government units to achieve real autonomy.
Mauricio, Mel "Batas" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm against it. Our culture favor people directly choosing their leader through a presidential form of government. When you shift to a parliamentary form, you're removing the people's right to directly choose their leader. If you remove that and place this in the hands of a selected few, you're in effect disenfranchising the people.
Mercado, Orly K-4 Coalition	Charter change is a good idea if only to reform some of our institutions. In the parliamentary form, we can "compel" parties to be disciplined as they can be ousted by a quick vote of no confidence. We can end this absurd campaigning throughout the country because the prime minister will only campaign in his district and for two to three weeks only.
Osmeña, John K-4 Coalition	No answer.
Padilla, Carlos Senatorial bet of Panfilo Lacson	I am in favor but it should be through a constitutional convention. We believe a convention, though expensive, would be more objective and would not disrupt legislative work like a constitutional assembly would.
Pimentel, Aquilino, Jr. KNP	I endorse the adoption of a federal setup of government to hasten the country's economic development and the resolution of the Muslim secessionist conflict in Mindanao. I have drawn up a blueprint for the establishment of 10 federal states in the country, including a Bangsa-Moro Federal State.
Rasul-Bernardo, Amina KNP	Definitely, we need a system of governance that is representative of all peoples and all sectors. The present system has failed those of us who live in the periphery. Yes to Charter change.
Revilla, Ramon "Bong", Jr. K-4 Coalition	Give it a thorough study.
Roa, Boots Anson KNP	I support a constitutional convention to amend the Constitution. The Charter should be amended within the first half of the term of the next administration and ratified in conjunction with the holding of the elections in 2007. A parliamentary form eliminates the check and balance exercised by either the Senate or the House on matters of legislation.
Roxas,Manuel "Mar" III K-4 Coalition	I strongly support changing our form of government to the unicameral parliamentary with a directly elected strong president. (Meaning not a figurehead). We need this at the soonest possible time. We are being overwhelmed by our problems, but our present system doesn't allow us to move forward even at the most basic reforms. Our country is in gridlock.
Santiago, Miriam K-4 Coalition	The first change in the Charter should be a requirement that all public officials elected or appointed first pass the appropriate civil service exam. The public might resist the shift to parliamentary government, after realizing that it will not be the voters but the politicians who will have the power to choose the leader of the country.
Sonza, Jay Alyansa ng Pag-asa	Yes. As a matter of fact I was one of those who campaigned vigorously for the non-ratification of the 1987 Constitution.
Tatad, Francisco KNP	Constitutional reform is needed to allow an immediate shift to parliamentary government. Public opinion should be mobilized to support the objective. Although the authority to initiate constitutional reform is vested in Congress, the President and the ruling party could nudge Congress to take the proper steps.
Yasay, Perfecto Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm in favor of Charter change. I'm also in favor of changing the form of government from the present centralized form to a decentralized setup. The problem with our system now is we have a very highly centralized government. We must federate our system to empower local government units.

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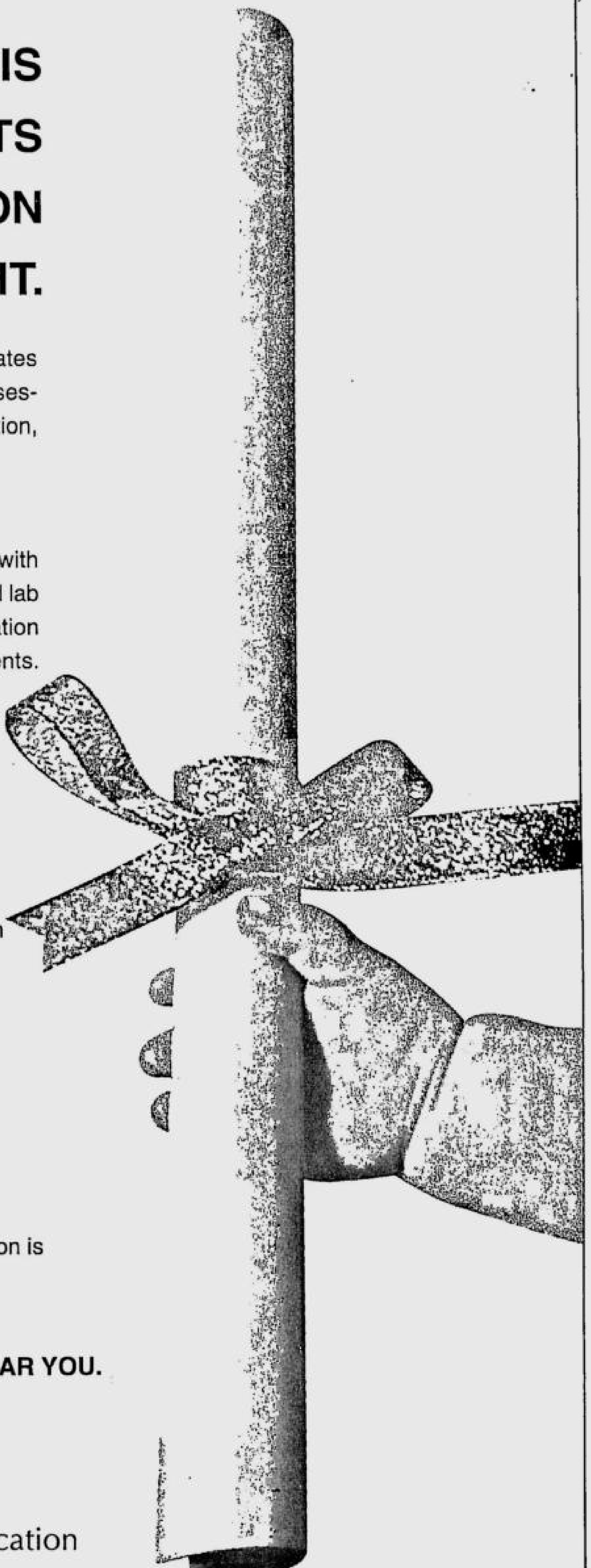

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Bello says Gonzales can't stop talks

ILAGAN, Isabela—Chief government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III said peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels would go on despite accusations that six party-list groups are fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"The disqualification issue filed by (National Security Adviser) Norberto Gonzales (against six party-list groups) has no relation to politics. The peace talks would go on whatever happens," Bello told the INQUIRER.

Gonzales, in a presentation before the National Security Council on April 2, claimed that the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Anakpawis, Anak ng Bayan, Migrante and Suara Bangsamoro were using their countrywide development funds to "aid and abet the armed struggle of the New People's Army." The NPA is the armed wing of the CPP.

But Bello said the six party-list groups identified by Gonzales "have their own ideologies and principles" and have the "right to seek elective positions" through the party-list system in the country.

He said Gonzales "acted on his own."

Bello said the government panel talking peace with the National Democratic Front, a group of underground organizations that include the CPP, "would not like to entangle the peace mission with such issue."

Whether the six groups have links to the CPP, it is up to Gonzales to provide evidence and file charges, if necessary, Bello said.

He said he believed the accusations of Gonzales would not affect the peace talks.

"Both panels want lasting peace even with intervening political components to ensure that the peace process will prosper and the root causes of the armed conflict will be addressed," Bello said.

The National Democratic Front in Mindanao said that the statement of Gonzales about the alleged ties of militant party-list groups with the communist movement reflected the desperate move of some sectors to prevent progressive groups from winning seats in Congress.

Jorge Madlos, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson, said Gonzales' statement could also be a prelude "to a more vicious nationwide political and military attacks against the leaders and members of these progressive party-list groups."

"This is another classic example of reactionary intrigues fomented by a desperate regime," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has distanced herself from Gonzales' allegations by saying her national security adviser should present proof about his claims.

Gonzales said he has enough proof to back up his allegations.

Madlos said Gonzales appears to be member of a group which does not want progressive minds in the government.

He said among the member of this sector is the military. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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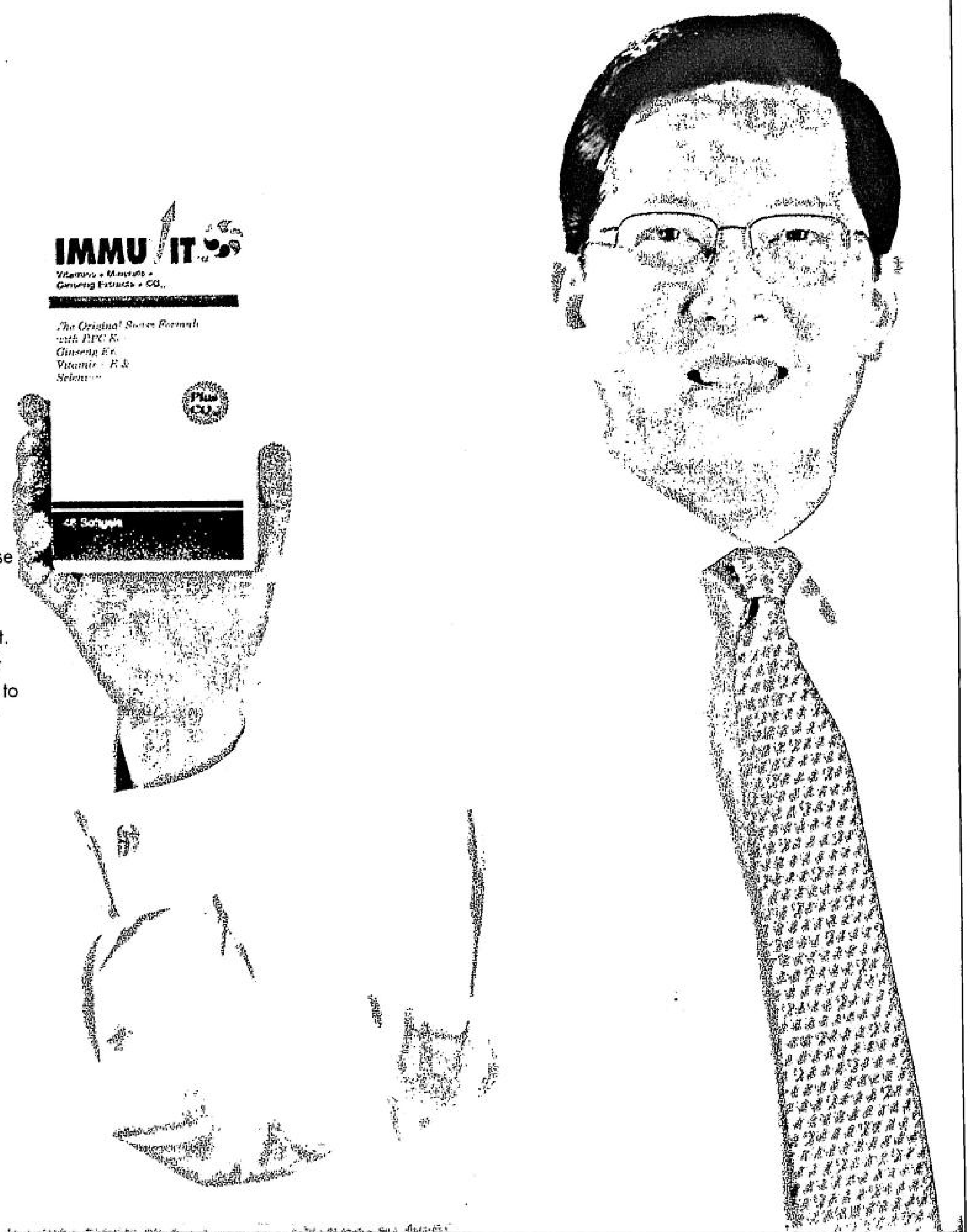

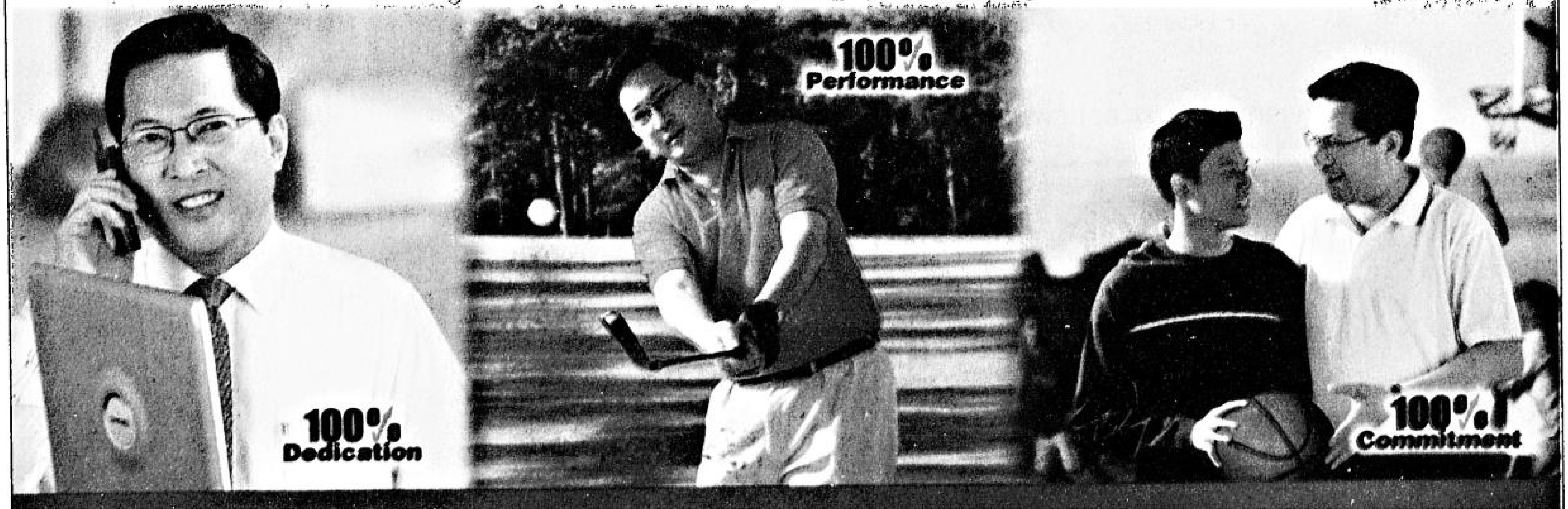

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Mountaineers detour to Mindoro mountain

CALAPAN CITY—More than 300 mountaineers from all over the country came to Bulusan Park here on Holy Tuesday to participate in the 18th Annual Climb of the third highest peak in the Philippines.

Oriental Mindoro Halms (Halcon Mountaineers) president Renato Tobillo, said there were more climbers this time than the previous years because other mountains, like Mount Banahaw in Quezon Province and Mount Pulag in Mountain Province, were closed for rehabilitation due to accumulated garbage.

Tobillo said that while the main purpose of the climb is ecotourism and appreciation of Mount Halcon, he foresaw more garbage problems after the climb and another call for a "rest period" for the Mindoro mountain.

He said while they reminded members to observe cleanliness during the climb, other mountaineers do not coordinate with them.

Those mountaineers also avoid paying entrance fee on their way up to the mountain, he added.

The mountaineers will be back in Bulusan Park on April 10 for an evaluation.

The event is assisted by the Provincial Tourism Council and the City Trade and Industry offices. *Donna S. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishop warns vs use of pulpit in campaign as priest openly backs mayoral candidate

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Archbishop of Zamboanga Carmelo Morelos cautioned the clergy against using the pulpit or any Church instrument for partisan politics.

Morelos' circular came after complaints swamped his office about a particular parish priest allegedly using the pulpit to openly campaign for businessman Lepeng Wee.

The complaints against the priest was accompanied by newspaper clippings showing him raising Wee's hand in front of the altar on March 25, the first day of the campaign for local elective positions.

Wee, an ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, is running for mayor here.

Morelos said it is indeed the duty of the clergy to participate in the electoral process by evaluating the issues, scrutinizing the qualifications and competence of candidates but "we are not to engage in partisan politics."

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The group, led by two horse-riding "centurions," arrived at the crucifixion site at 1:10 p.m.

At the two-hectare crucifixion site, thousands of people, including foreigners, had gathered since 9 a.m. *Tonette Orejas with reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man dies as fire burns 1,000 homes

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—An elderly man died in a two-hour fire that razed some 1,000 houses in at least two villages here around 1 p.m. yesterday.

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Nonoy said his frail and limping grandfather was alone in the house when the fire broke out.

The body of the old man was later recovered in the pathway, leading to the main road.

Mayor Vicente Emano immediately sent officials to the area to help the victims while the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) tried hard to put out the blaze as panicking residents tried to salvage their belongings.

Fire trucks from nearby municipalities helped in putting out the fire but officials said the materials of most houses were flammable and aggravated the fire.

Belen Galdo, city social welfare officer, said most of the houses affected by the fire that razed the seaside portion of Barangays Puntod and Lapasan were made of light materials.

BFP officials said small pathways leading to the interior of the villages also made their job difficult as fire trucks could not pass.

As fire engulfed the houses, helpless residents watched from safe distances.

Galdo said the city government immediately set up an evacuation center at the Puntod Elementary School to accommodate those displaced by the fire.

She said as of late yesterday afternoon, social workers were still trying to have an exact count of the displaced for purposes of food rationing and other assistance.

But Rep. Constantino Jaraula sent in at least 20 sacks of rice while the Catholic Church donated 25 sacks of used clothing.

Yesterday's fire was considered one of the city's worst. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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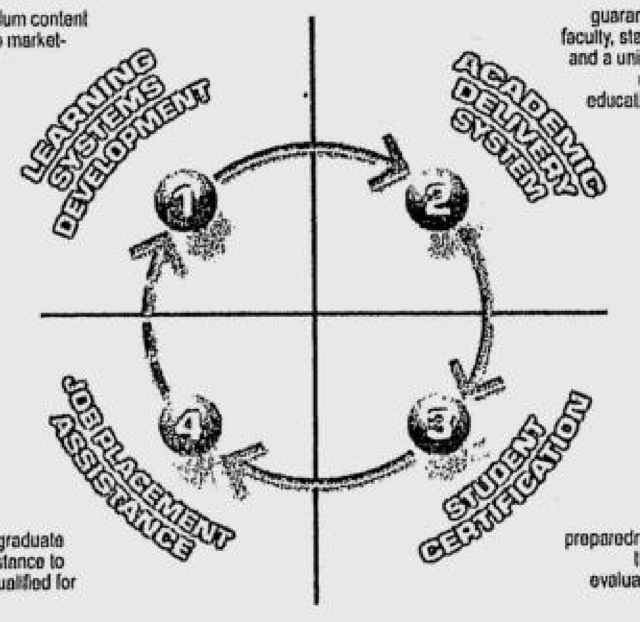

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Mountaineers detour to Mindoro mountain

CALAPAN CITY—More than 300 mountaineers from all over the country came to Bulusan Park here on Holy Tuesday to participate in the 18th Annual Climb of the third highest peak in the Philippines.

Oriental Mindoro Halms (Halcon Mountaineers) president Renato Tobillo, said there were more climbers this time than the previous years because other mountains, like Mount Banahaw in Quezon Province and Mount Pulag in Mountain Province, were closed for rehabilitation due to accumulated garbage.

Tobillo said that while the main purpose of the climb is ecotourism and appreciation of Mount Halcon, he foresaw more garbage problems after the climb and another call for a "rest period" for the Mindoro mountain.

He said while they reminded members to observe cleanliness during the climb, other mountaineers do not coordinate with them.

Those mountaineers also avoid paying entrance fee on their way up to the mountain, he added.

The mountaineers will be back in Bulusan Park on April 10 for an evaluation.

The event is assisted by the Provincial Tourism Council and the City Trade and Industry offices. *Donna S. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishop warns vs use of pulpit in campaign as priest openly backs mayoral candidate

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Archbishop of Zamboanga Carmelo Morelos cautioned the clergy against using the pulpit or any Church instrument for partisan politics.

Morelos' circular came after complaints swamped his office about a particular parish priest allegedly using the pulpit to openly campaign for businessman Lepeng Wee.

The complaints against the priest was accompanied by newspaper clippings showing him raising Wee's hand in front of the altar on March 25, the first day of the campaign for local elective positions.

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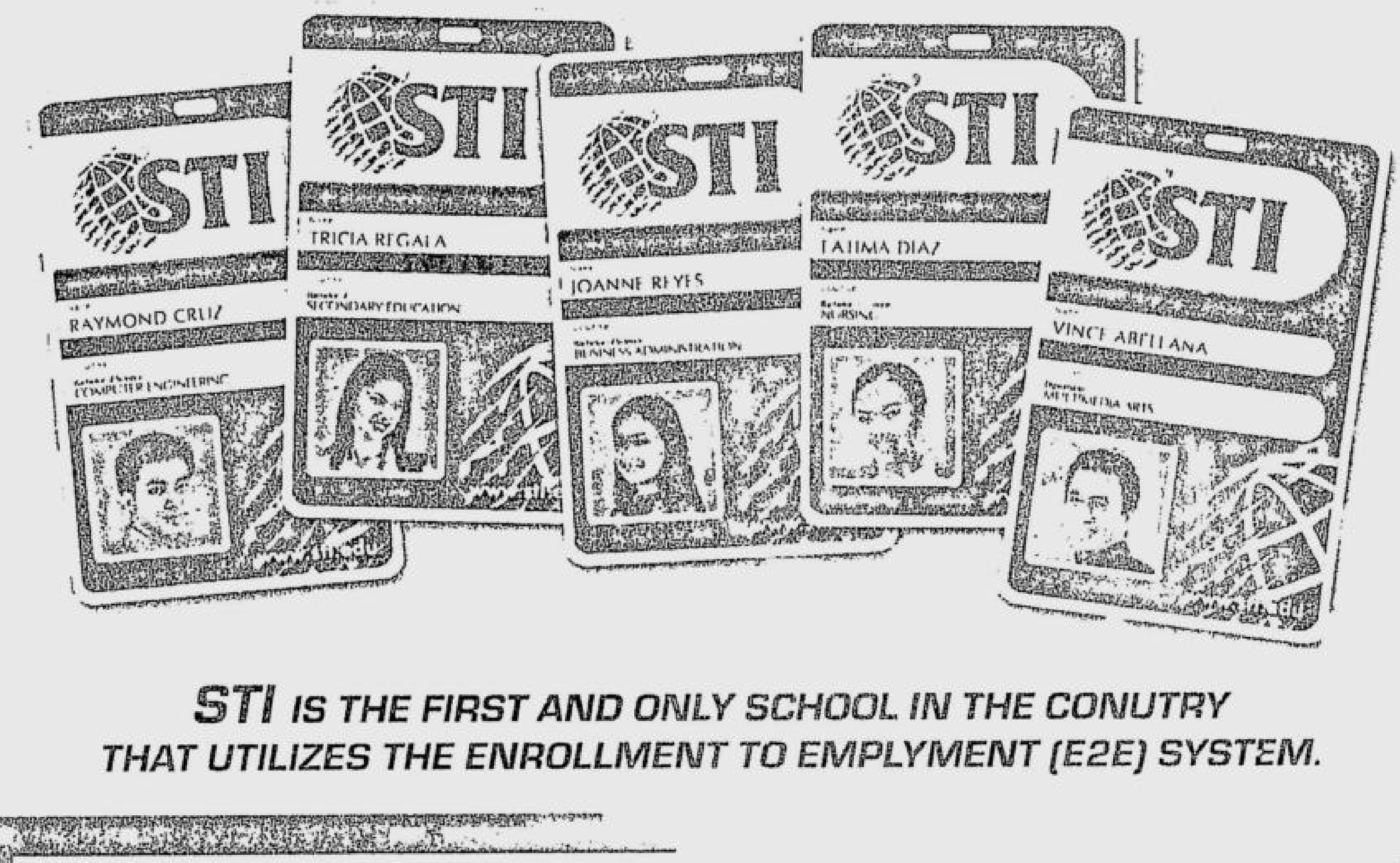

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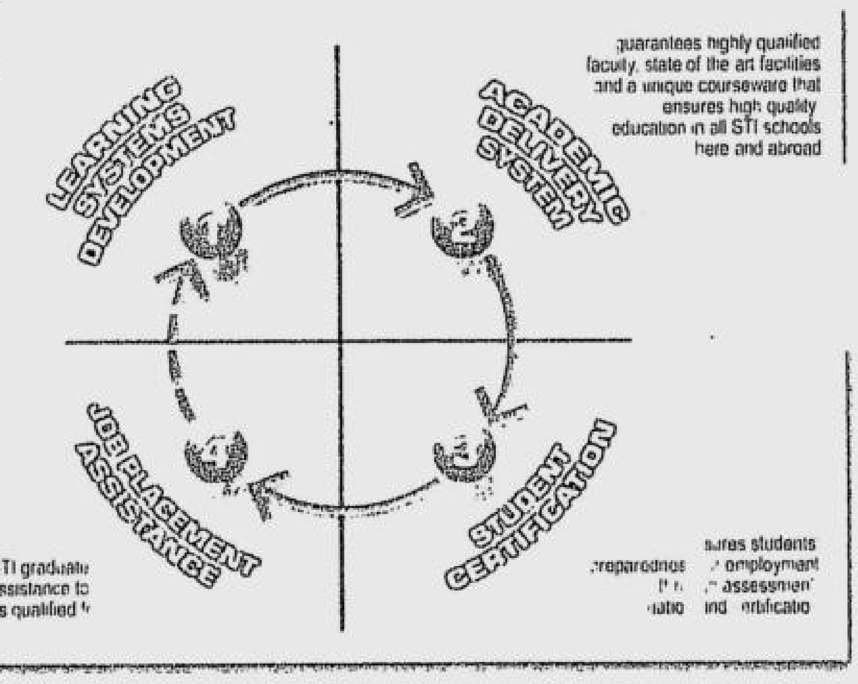
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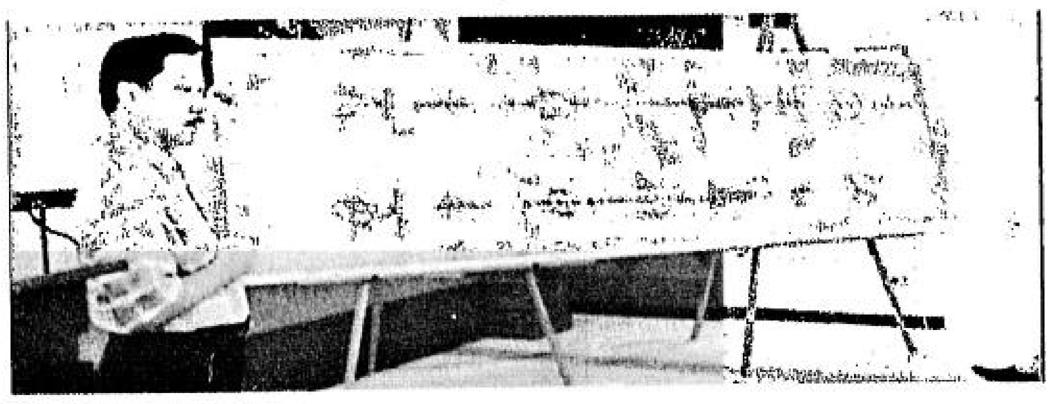
Replica of Holy Shroud of Turin draws big crowd



ARCHITECT Mangio presents the shroud replica. TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—A photo replica of the Holy Shroud of Turin, said to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, has been shown for public viewing at the Spirit of Love Catholic Community (SLCC) chapel here, drawing large crowds of devotees.

This copy of the purported relic measures 1.2 meters by 4.18 meters (3.94 feet by 13.71 feet), the same size of the original fabric preserved in the Turin Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Italy, according to its custodian, architect and businessman Nestor Mangio.

"It is one of the few actual-sized replicas in the Philippines," Mangio told the INQUIRER.

He said the cloth, which bears the distinguishable marks of the face, body, wounds and blood of a crucified man believed to be Christ, gives a glimpse of Christ's sufferings. The images are faint, all in light red.

The replica, stretched on a long canvas and propped up on two wooden frames, is kept at the oratory of the SLCC chapel at 107 Villa Angelina Subdivision here. It is on display 20 hours a day.

Formerly the house of the Mangio family, the large chapel has been a quiet refuge to the faithful who have gathered for collective prayers and singings for Holy Week.

From Holy Monday to Holy Wednesday, the center gave free viewing of Hollywood actor Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and held lectures on the origin, controversy and significance of the shroud to the Catholic faith.

Mangio said he obtained the replica in May 1998 when the shroud, exposed only every 20 years, went on a public exposition from April 18 to June 14 that year.

Pope Julius II in 1506 designated May 4 as the shroud's feast day, according to the Catholic magazine "St. Anthony Messenger."

Mangio considered himself lucky for on the same year, he was in Germany on a business trip as a director of the Bases Conversion Development Authority. When he learned of the rare event, he immediately boarded a plane bound for Italy.

"I managed to get a view the Holy Shroud. And I was so touched. When I was walking towards the church, I saw a display of a replica (in one of the religious stores) so I promised myself that I will get one and promote the love and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ (through the shroud)," he said.

Yet, it seemed hard to get. The store manager told him that the replica was not for sale and that he could not part with it because the piece defined the theme of the store.

But the manager, on the insistence of Mangio, obliged to give the name and the telephone number of the photographer who made the replica.

The negotiation hardly took off because the photographer spoke only Italian. Mangio then called some Filipino priests in the Vatican and requested them to talk to the photographer and commission the work. They succeeded.

In August 1998, the replica finally reached the Philippines, care of a Filipino priest who hand-carried it all the way to Pampanga.

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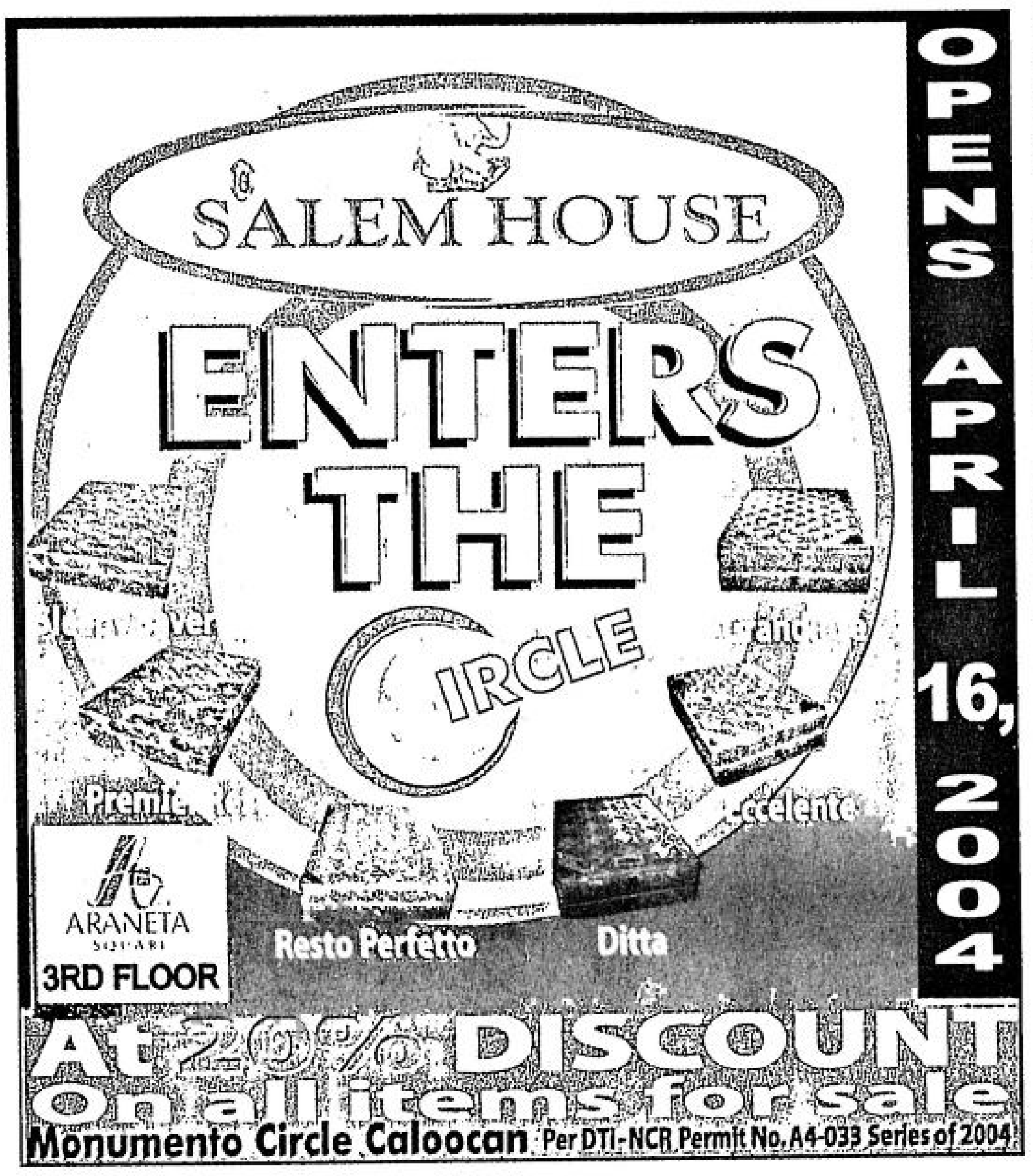

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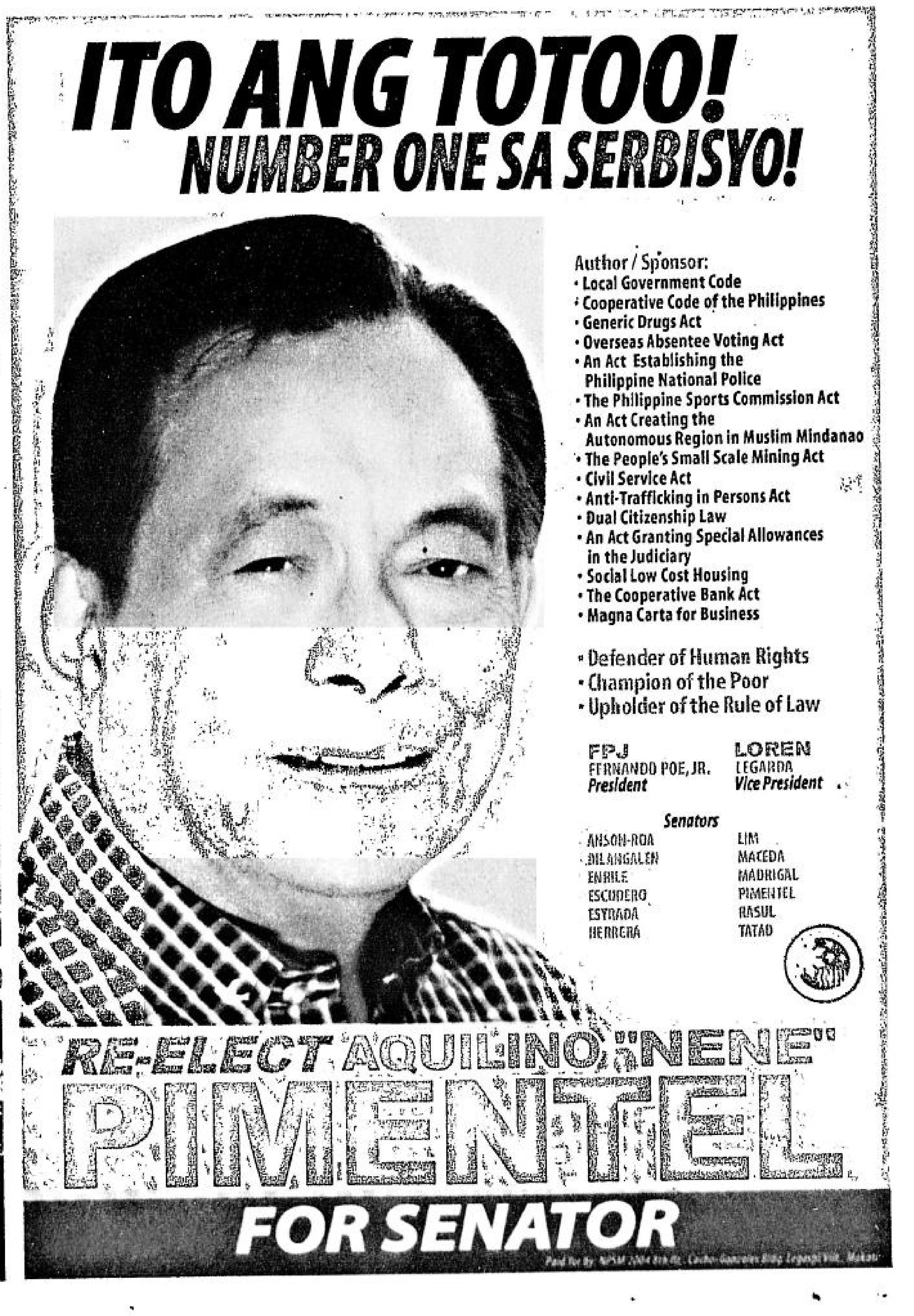

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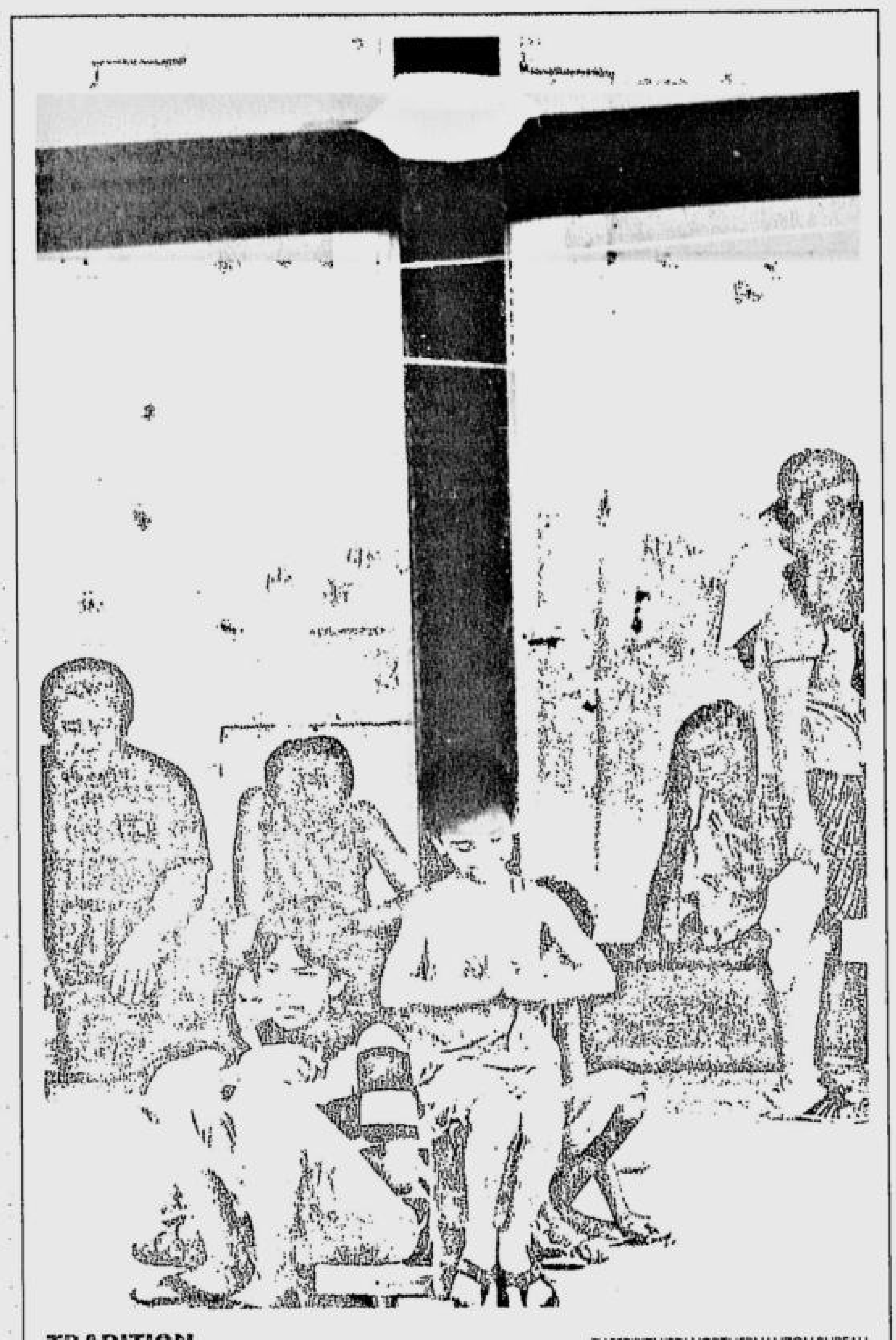

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Children mimic actors in a passion play on the life of Jesus in the town of Samal, Bataan, which has staged the play since 1946, making it one of the town's Holy Week traditions.

Doctor in top 5 decides to stick to rural service

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The topnotcher in the medical board exams last February might have decided to leave his strife-torn town of Lamitan, Basilan to work as a nurse in the United States. But the fifth placer in the same exams, also a nurse, has no plan of working abroad and is determined to hack out a public health career in his similarly strife-torn home island of Samar.

Francis Langi Jr., 29, a native of Barangay Calapi in Motiong, Samar, is a very unlikely board placer. A very unassuming person, he was neither prominent in academics nor active in extracurricular activities during his student days at the School of Health Sciences, the distant unit of the University of the Philippines Manila in Palo, Leyte.

The SHS was founded in 1976 as an experimental school with a "ladder-type" curriculum aimed at producing midwives, nurses and physicians who are fit for rural health work in depressed and deprived communities of the country.

Hardy background

Only a patient probing of Francis' hardy village and personal background could explain his board exam feat, the first for Samar in recent memory.

The town of Motiong, which faces the red tide-prone Maqueda Bay in Samar, is 90 km north of Tacloban City and 20 km west of the capital town of Catbalogan. It landed in the news in the wake of a raid on the local police station by New People's Army guerrillas in November 2002.

Francis was born and raised in Barangay Calapi, which was named after the tiny fruit of a rattan species that has a sweet-sour taste and a pineapple-looking shell.

Although it is the town's biggest barangay, Calapi is 17 km from the nearest cemented highway. It is figuratively close to the moon. It is traversed by a narrow provincial dirt road, mostly overlooking steep cliffs and spanned by wooden bridges in several areas, that ends in the very interior town of San Jose de Buan in central Samar, some 25 km north.

The barangay itself is characterized by low rolling hills mainly planted to rice and some corn. It does not have a piped water system. The residents fetch water for drinking and other uses from springs and dug wells.

Electricity reached the area only recently.

Francis completed his elementary and high school education in Barangay Calapi.

The village high school, the second in town, is as deprived as its elementary school. While Francis graduated as its high school valedictorian in 1991, he was also the only one in his class of nearly 30 to have passed the now-defunct National College Entrance Examination (NCEE).

Family growth

Francis' feat paralleled the growth of his family.

His father and namesake, Francis Sr., who had two years of college, started out as a rice farmer. His mother, Agripina, a high school graduate, is home bound. The couple raised four children, all boys.

Francis Sr. was appointed OIC-councilor after the first Edsa revolution in 1986, but lost the position in the 1988 elections. In an ensuing election, he won as No. 2 barangay councilman of Calapi, from which he carved out a political career.

In 1992, Francis Sr. ran for the position of vice mayor and won. In 1995, he ran for the higher position of mayor and won. He will complete his last and third term as mayor this year

His three other sons have completed their college education. Aldwin, 31, a civil engineer, now works as general manager of a local water district in Palawan. Ricky, 24, an electrical engineer, works with the Samar Electric Cooperative in Catbalogan. Rey, 22, graduate of a commerce course, operates an eatery in Motiong.

Francis, the second child, now resides in his hometown with a family of his own.

He is married to Rizza Padayao from Daram, Samar, an island town at the mouth of Maqueda Bay. She works in Motiong as rural health midwife assigned to the barangay health station at Barangay Bunga.

They have a five-year-old son, Keith Francis.

Commitment to service

For his feat in the medical board exams, Francis has received offers for better-paying and urban-based hospital jobs. But he is determined to serve his people in Samar.

He said he became a physician as a UP "Iskolar ng Bayan" on the endorsement of the very same people he now intends to serve as a professional.

He has served his town as volunteer health worker during his various "service leaves" from the university—as a licensed midwife, and as a licensed nurse. He also joined medical missions of the military and served the health and medical needs of rebels.

Francis hopes for goodwill from opposing parties in the ideological war in the Samar hinterlands and respect for neutrality of the medical profession.

Heirs of 'Buddha finder' cling to hope on claims

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Exactly 33 years ago on Monday (April 5), armed men reportedly sent by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, raided the house of a locksmith here and took a Golden Buddha believed to be part of the fabled Yamashita treasure.

Last weekend, the Associated Press reported that a lawyer of the Atlanta-based Golden Buddha Corp. had claimed that the United States government had connived with Marcos in bringing the three-foot Golden Buddha out of the Philippines.

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But he said it was his first time to hear about Stone. He said he did not know if Stone was coordinating with Cathcart.

WWII vets come to shrine to honor fallen comrades

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

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"They have many promises. But these are always promises," Fogata said. "The war veterans are dying by the day."

The number of war veterans in his district in Zambales, comprising of 16 posts in 10 towns, is down to less than 1,000 this year.

He said disability benefits for veterans worth P1,700 monthly had been approved in 1994 but they did not receive a single centavo from this.

For many veterans, he said the monthly P5,000 old-age pension was not enough. He said the reason he is coping is his P14,000 monthly pension as a former member of the Navy.

"You know I always come to also hear our presidents. I always get frustrated. I hope not this time," Fogata said. Tributes on the gallantry of the Bataan defenders were profuse on Wednesday but there were still no concrete package of benefits to expect yet.

Closure

Lee Zeunen, 73, came for another reason.

He said his first visit to the shrine on Wednesday was "for closure." Zeunen's voice cracked as he told the INQUIRER the purpose of his visit.

His adopted father, Maj. Max Keil, survived the Death March from Mariveles, Bataan, to Capas, Tarlac in 1942. More than two years later, the former prisoner of war was killed when the Okoyku Maru sank off the coast of Bataan in December 1944.

Keil, who was 34 then, led the 45th Infantry of the Philippine Scouts, Zeunen said.

Drunken men mar Good Friday procession

VICTORIA, Laguna—Thousands of devotees of the "Holy Sepulcher" image here were upset when the traditional procession of the image of the dead Jesus Christ went short-lived after an unruly group of drunken men "stole" the image on Good Friday, leaving several followers injured and the "Holy Image" damaged.

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But the people, knowing that those carrying the Senyor were all drunken, decided not to follow the procession, Abarca said.

The group apparently decided to stop when they noticed that nobody was following them.

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She said the image's glass cover was broken and Jesus' hair was pulled. One of the men who stole the image was rushed to a clinic and got 10 stitches to close a wound in his left hand. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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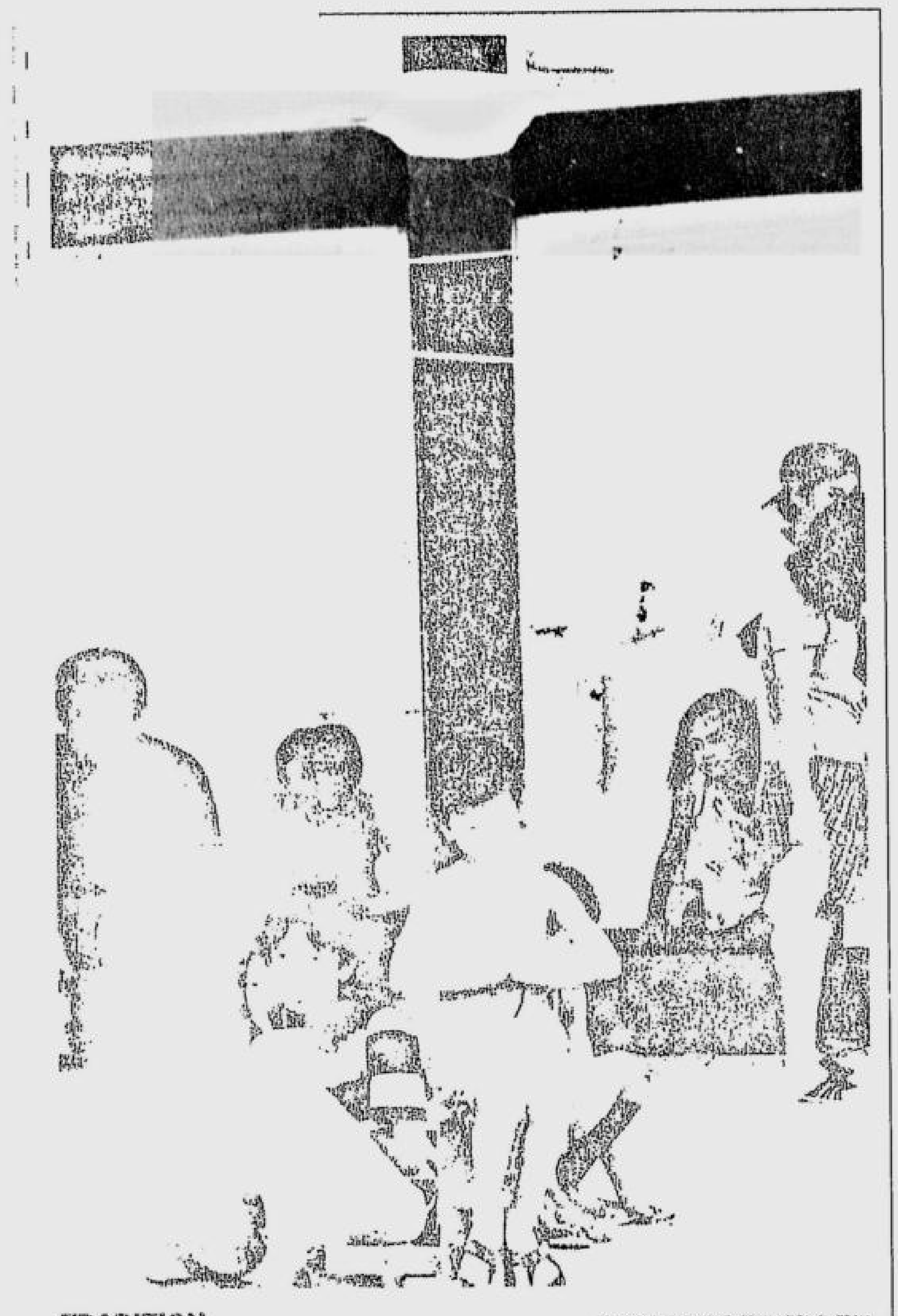

TRADITION

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Children mimic actors in a passion play on the life of Jesus in the town of Samal, Bataan, which has staged the play since 1946, making it one of the town's Holy Week traditions.

Doctor in top 5 decides to stick to rural service

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The topnotcher in the medical board exams last February might have decided to leave his strife-torn town of Lamitan, Basilan to work as a nurse in the United States. But the fifth placer in the same exams, also a nurse, has no plan of working abroad and is determined to hack out a public health career in his similarly strife-torn home island of Samar.

Francis Langi Jr., 29, a native of Barangay Calapi in Motiong, Samar, is a very unlikely board placer. A very unassuming person, he was neither prominent in academics nor active in extracurricular activities during his student days at the School of Health Sciences, the distant unit of the University of the Philippines Manila in Palo, Leyte.

The SHS was founded in 1976 as an experimental school with a "ladder-type" curriculum aimed at producing midwives, nurses and physicians who are fit for rural health work in depressed and deprived communities of the country.

Hardy background

Only a patient probing of Francis' hardy village and personal background could explain his board exam feat, the first for Samar in recent memory.

The town of Motiong, which faces the red tide-prone Maqueda Bay in Samar, is 90 km north of Tacloban City and 20 km west of the capital town of Catbalogan. It landed in the news in the wake of a raid on the local police station by New People's Army guerrillas in November 2002.

Francis was born and raised in Barangay Calapi, which was named after the tiny fruit of a rattan species that has a sweet-sour taste and a pineapple-looking shell.

Although it is the town's biggest barangay, Calapi is 17 km from the nearest cemented highway. It is figuratively close to the moon. It is traversed by a narrow provincial dirt road, mostly overlooking steep cliffs and spanned by wooden bridges in several areas, that ends in the very interior town of San Jose de Buan in central Samar, some 25 km north.

The barangay itself is characterized by low rolling hills mainly planted to rice and some corn. It does not have a piped water system. The residents fetch water for drinking and other uses from springs and dug wells.

Electricity reached the area only recently.

Francis completed his elementary and high school education in Barangay Calapi.

The village high school, the second in town, is as deprived as its elementary school. While Francis graduated as its high school valedictorian in 1991, he was also the only one in his class of nearly 30 to have passed the now-defunct National College Entrance Examination (NCEE).

Family growth

Francis' feat paralleled the growth of his family.

His father and namesake, Francis Sr., who had two years of college, started out as a rice farmer. His mother, Agripina, a high school graduate, is home bound. The couple raised four children, all boys.

Francis Sr. was appointed OIC councilor after the first Edsa revolution in 1986, but lost the position in the 1988 elections. In an ensuing election, he won as No. 2 barangay councilman of Calapi, from which he carved out a political career.

In 1992, Francis Sr. ran for the position of vice mayor and won [illegible] 1995, he ran for the higher position [illegible] mayor and won. He will complete [illegible] last and third term as mayor this [illegible]

His three other sons have completed their college education. Aldwin, [illegible] a civil engineer, now works as general manager of [illegible] local water district [illegible] Palawan. Ricky, [illegible] electrical engineer, works with the Samar Electric Cooperative in [illegible] Rey, [illegible] graduate of a co[illegible] operates an eatery in [illegible]

Francis, the [illegible] child, [illegible] sides in his hon[illegible] with [illegible] family of his own

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Commitment to service

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Francis hope[illegible] posing partie[illegible] the Samar I[illegible] neutrality of [illegible]

Heirs of 'Buddha finder' cling to hope on claims

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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‘Popular’ vote not always . . .

From page A1

However, history has shown that such guidelines do not necessarily affect the voting pattern in this largely Catholic country.

Although frowned upon by many leaders of the Catholic Church, former movie actor Joseph Estrada won the 1998 presidential election by a near record margin. He was ousted from power two and a half years later on charges of massive graft.

The guidelines followed survey results showing that actor Fernando Poe Jr., who is banking on his popularity with the masses to carry him to victory, and President Macapagal-Arroyo—accused by rivals of misusing government funds for her campaign—are in a statistical deadheat ahead of the May 10 elections.

According to Rosales, some are "less prepared" to participate responsibly in the elections and the "other tasks of responsible citizenship," like observing laws, the exercise of liberty and the provision and proper receiving of services.

These "weak members" of society, he said, should not be taken advantage of, but instead should be helped toward "accountable citizenship."

Discern the difference

"Still in nation-building, there are many who are not able to discern the difference between the entertaining and the serious, between the real and the unreal, between image and actual life and between responsibility and freedom," he said.

Freedom has a greater counterpart, which is accountability, he added.

"Let all, who can, help toward an enlightened exercise of one's rights. A 'popular vote' does not always mean a responsible choice," he added.

Can elections solve corruption?

Rosales said elections were the closest that the Filipinos could come to nation-building but he wondered whether elections could really solve the major problem of the country, which is corruption.

The archbishop pointed out that since the tenures of the elected officials were mostly spent in efforts to retain their posts, their terms of office usually passed swiftly.

Without a genuine national vision shared by many, the candidates themselves come quickly to fault each other and the system that breed their kind, he said.

Corruption in governance

"Many partly share the blame with the politicians because they have sought favors that further disconcert already unstable governance," he said.

"Aside from the loss of money from the national treasury, corruption destroys values and demoralizes the citizenry," he said.

Wealthy ex-addicts . . .

From page A1

them back on track.

According to its executive director, former drug dependent Dondie Ayuyao: "New Beginnings traces much of its success to the principle that abstinence from the substance is just the beginning of recovery."

Former residents see to it that after leaving the center, they continue to meet weekly to "sustain the honesty" that helped them purge inner demons while inside the center.

"It's like a prayer meeting," Ayuyao explained. "They listen to, and address one another's needs."

The INQUIRER met with RJ and his parents, as well as Lichauco and Roman, last week in a Pasig City restaurant. Resolutely unembarrassed about their past, they all willingly agreed to have their real names published and their photographs taken.

As RJ's father Ramon, a businessman, put it: "Parents used to be ashamed of having gay or lesbian children. Not anymore. So why should I be ashamed of the three drug addicts in my own household—closet monsters, I might call them—who have undergone rehabilitation and are now recovering?"

"I'm just trying to make up for those 18 years (as a drug addict)," said RJ, 34. He had his first taste of pot at age 13, managed to finish high school, but finally quit after second year college.

In 1992, he married a childhood friend, a drug user herself. His father gave him a job at the family's auto repair shop. "But he would often report at five in the afternoon," the elder Rodriguez recalled.

Absentee parents

His daughter is now 11 years old. "I neglected her," he admitted. "In Grade 4, she failed five subjects because we weren't there for her. We were absentee parents."

It came to a point when he sold their household appliances, car parts and accessories, just to purchase drugs from a supplier in Pasig City.

Thus meeting shadowy characters, RJ was soon having paranoia episodes. His father recounted how he painted the bedroom windows dark, fearing their residence in Greenmeadows, Quezon City, was being spied upon by cops.

"I'm back to being a father," said RJ. Following detoxification in another center, he entered the New Beginnings in August last year and was out by November. Among the encouraging results of this personal victory is that his daughter has caught up with her school work, and has no more failing grades.

Sleeping pills

Deedee's "substance of choice" was tranquilizers and sleeping pills woven into a dangerous regimen. She developed the habit to deal with a series of painful blows to her personal and domestic life in the 1990s.

Aside from managing the drug problems of RJ and his wife at the time, the Rodriguez couple lost one of their six children, a 20-year-old son, to cancer. The family business was down. And Deedee was entering menopause. "Doctors prescribed pills for three nights, but I would tell the secretary to add a zero to the number in the prescription," she said. A pill put her to sleep, but only for about three hours. "I would take more until I could sleep the whole day, and then I refused to go out because I looked so haggard."

By the time Deedee was convinced to spend a few weeks at the New Beginnings in October last year, her drug abuse had severely affected both her mental processes and her self-esteem.

She had to write notes to herself, to remember where she left things or find her way out of a shopping mall. If she needed to attend a gathering three days ahead, she would use up those three days inducing sleep just so she would "look fresh" for the occasion.

But Deedee claimed she has finally "accepted" her losses. She has also ceased being a recluse. Best of all, "I can again tell if my children are having problems."

To be alone with vodka

Lichauco, the recovering alcoholic, traced his downward spiral to the depression caused by his father's death in 1989.

"'I lived a double life," he said. In public, he was a young, "presentable" businessman with his own trucking company and a master's degree in business administration from the US.

"Deep inside I was tense like a volcano," Lichauco related. "I didn't go on binges, but every day I would drink, just to sleep—until I could not drink enough. I withdrew from my wife. That's when our relationship really suffered, our communication became superficial. I often wanted to be alone with my vodka."

Apart from undermining his 10-year-old marriage, his love affair with the bottle made him put off important business decisions, causing his company to rack up huge debts.

By September 2002, he wanted to kill himself. But thanks to the timely intervention of his wife, the potential suicide became a New Beginnings resident in November of the same year. He stayed a month.

Lichauco, 37, said he has remained sober to this day. "Recovery is like a religion that I embrace," he said. He has resumed work with his company. "But until now, I'm still finding a way to forgive myself and move on."

Spoiled brat

Roman, 43, finished one-and-a-half months of treatment in October 1992, and later volunteered to be a counselor at New Beginnings and other rehabilitation centers.

He started taking marijuana at age 12. He was an addict of the bratty sort, a rich kid with cash to burn.

Once hospitalized for pneumonia, he asked his wife to sneak in a packet of shabu. When she brought a bowl of his favorite Ma Mon Luk noodles instead, he threw the hot soup at his wife.

"When I realized that I had become violent and that my family had ran out of ways to help me, that's when I became afraid. I suffered emotional bankruptcy: the drugs that used to make me happy were starting to make me weep instead."

Looking back, he said, his drugged view of the world made him think people were constantly trying to outsmart one another to get ahead in life.

"That's why when I entered the center, I didn't really plan to quit. I just wanted to lie low and learn tricks to make the habit manageable again," he confessed. "But soon, I realized there were people out there who truly cared for me—although they used to be drug addicts themselves."

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Manila police told: Bomb could be hidden in ice cream delivery van

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE POLICE in Manila have been told to keep an eye out for an ice cream delivery van that could be used in a bomb attack in the city.

In a memorandum dated April 9, Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, Western Police District operations and planning director, sent out the warning to all police units in the city.

Ortilla's memo described the potential truck bomb as a "closed van" with the markings of a local ice cream company.

The possible target of the truck bomb was not identified in the memo. However, Manila is host to a number of high-profile targets, which include the United States Embassy, the Pandacan oil depot, the Malacañang, light rail transit stations and a number of hotels and shopping malls.

Ortilla thus directed all WPD operating units to intensify inspections at checkpoints with emphasis on closed vans.

"You are hereby directed to conduct inspection and monitoring on the above-cited van to preempt any bombing incidents or related incidents to happen during this season," the memo read.

WPD investigation units were told to get in touch with the management of all ice cream companies "to gather important information on all their distributors."

The memo came amid reports that the Abu Sayyaf was planning to bomb targets in Metro Manila, although the police have assured the public that the plan had been foiled with the arrest of six suspected members of the terrorist group.

Lapses eyed in security of QC banks

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office Director Ricardo de Leon has ordered an investigation into apparent lapses in the way the Central Police District (CPD) was handling the security around banks and commercial centers in Quezon City.

De Leon wanted to know why CPD policemen failed to immediately respond when gunmen held up an armored van parked outside the annex building of the SM City in North Edsa last week.

"Either there are lapses in operational procedures or our entire strategy needs to be readjusted," the NCRPO chief said.

Plan revised

This developed as CPD Director Napoleon Castro disclosed that the security plan in Quezon City would be revised following the SM Annex robbery, where suspects ran off with an undetermined amount of cash and killed a security guard.

Quezon City banks had been the targets of a series of robberies in the past, which prompted the CPD to then assign uniformed police officers to augment bank security personnel.

The strategy was discontinued after a lull in robberies.

As part of the new security setup, Castro told his men to visit the banks everyday and to coordinate with bank officials to prevent future heists. *Tina Santos*

UNAUTHORIZED INCURSIONS IN PASIG

Police chief warns of bloodshed

IN THE THICK OF SUMMER

The filth of the Manila Bay could not scare away throngs of people: men, women, children, who courageously, or blindly, swim with the garbage to fend off the heat of summer.

REUTERS

By Luige del Puerto

THE PASIG City police director yesterday warned policemen from other localities to respect the chain of command in the city or face dire consequences.

Sr. Supt. Ernesto Catungal aired the warning as he denounced the latest unauthorized operation in the city of non-Pasig policemen.

"I will not allow this to happen again," Catungal said, adding he felt "insulted" by the incursions.

On Thursday, six police officers from Caloocan City blocked the car of a Muslim trader on Market Avenue in Barangay Pinagbuhatan.

The officers claimed that they were "verifying information" about the trader, a certain Khalid Macmac, 48, of the Garden Royal Villas in Pasig City.

It was the second time officers from other police stations operated in Pasig without coordinating with the city police. Both operations targeted residents of a largely Muslim enclave in the city.

Catungal said such incursions could result in a "misencounter" or a shootout between law enforcement agencies, especially if the intruding policemen would be in civilian clothing.

Otherwise, he added, he could recommend the detention of illegally operating lawmen.

Court junks bail bid of 10 kidnap accused

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has junked the petition for bail filed by 10 accused in the kidnapping of two traders in Cainta, Rizal, in 2002.

Those denied bail were Jose Adelantar, 53; Lowen Almonte, 39; Morey Dadaan, 24; Jubert Banatao, 24; Marcelo Llanora, 52; Robert Gonzales, 37; Ricky Peña, 31; Roger Pesado, 35, and spouses Monico and Betty Salvador.

In junking the petition, QC RTC Branch 219 Pairing Judge Jose Paneda ruled that the evidence and testimonies against the accused were strong.

All the accused have been detained at the Quezon City Jail since their arrest on April 12, 2002.

In their petition for bail, the accused claimed that the accusations lodged against them were baseless.

One of the victims, a businessman and a resident of Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City, identified in court all the accused as those who kidnapped him on the night of April 7, 2002, in front of a cockpit arena in Cainta, Rizal.

The other victim was 27-year-old female trader from San Francisco Del Monte, also in Quezon City. *Tina Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits PSG area

A FIRE suspected to have been ignited by an overheating ceiling fan hit the Presidential Security Group compound in Malacañang Park in Pandacan, Manila. The fire that began at 1 p.m. slightly damaged the barracks of the motorcycle riders of the PSG. It was put out at 1:06 p.m., initial reports from the Bureau of Fire Protection in Manila show. Manila Fire Marshall Supt. Pablito Cordeta said in a radio interview that the fire was no cause for alarm. The barracks was far from the presidential palace. ***Leila Salaverria***

Gunmen slay tanod

THREE men shot dead yesterday morning a member of the Bantay Bayan in Binondo, Manila. David Pascuelo, 33, of Parola Compound, Binondo, who was driving a tricycle, was shot in the head by attackers identified as Michael Da Mesa, 35; Rodolfo Guimbao, 32, and one alias "Bungo." The suspects remain at large. PO3 Dennis Javier said Pascuelo was driving across the Manila International Container Port access road at about 8 a.m. when the three men shot at him with .38-caliber revolvers. Pascuelo was declared dead at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital. Police are checking out whether Pascuelo's killing was related to his responsibilities as a member of the Bantay Bayan, a quasi police group. ***Leila Salaverria and Niel Lim, trainee***

Parsons' strategy

JUDGING by the posters and streamers in Marikina City, one would think only Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando and her ticket were running for local posts. Posters, streamers and billboards from rival candidates, particularly from Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino mayoralty candidate Sonny Parsons. "I don't think posters are necessary, I'm in the hearts of voters," said the actor-turned-politician, who thinks shaking hands with voters was more effective. Luige del Puerto

Tanks provide lead

THE WESTERN Police District will try to trace the whereabouts of six men who broke into the Prudential Bank and Trust Company in Manila through the equipment they used, and left behind, when they opened the bank's vault last week. Theft and Robbery Section investigator PO3 Gordius Alumbro told the INQUIRER that he was already looking for the company from which the acetylene torch the suspects used came from. ***Leila Salaverria***

4 nabbed for poll campaign violation

FOUR young people were arrested in Malabon City on Good Friday for allegedly violating a ban on campaigning during the holy day.

Arrested for violation of the Comelec fair elections act were Norwin Rondallo, 18; two 17-year-old boys and a 16-year-old, all residents of Taniong, Malabon.

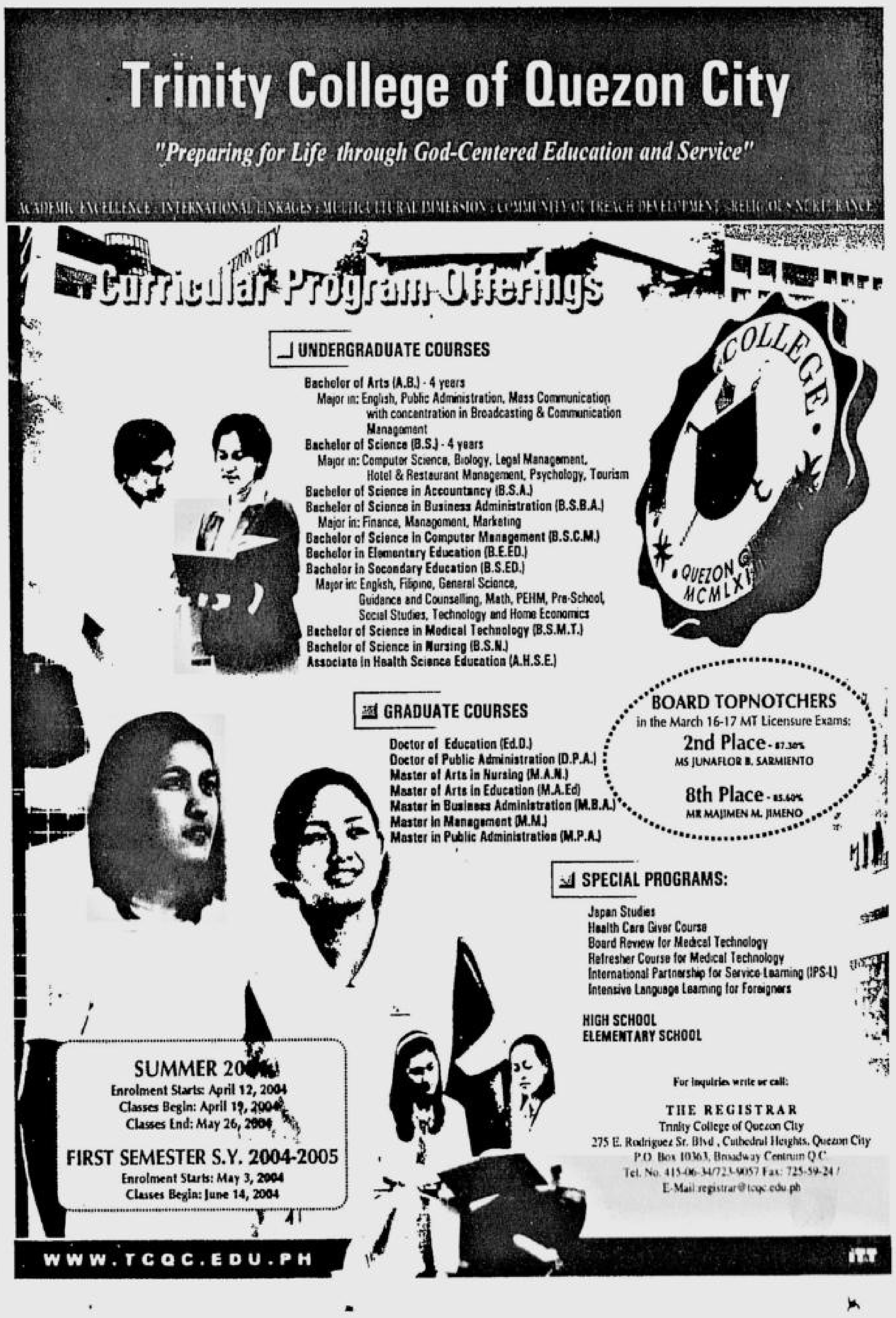
The boys were arrested following the complaint of one Luzviminda Frias Viola, 44, of Mapalad Street, Tonsuya.

Viola said she saw the teeners along San Roque Street, Barangay Tonsuya, at about 5 p.m. while handing out materials containing negative remarks about Malabon mayoralty candidate Tito Oreta.

The materials purportedly contained texts condemning Oreta's alleged use of a private army for his candidacy.

Earlier, Comelec officials reminded that all forms of campaigning were prohibited on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as stated in Comelec Resolution 6222, the Comelec's calendar of activities and periods on prohibited acts for the May 10 elections.

Violators face imprisonment of six months to six years. *Tina Santos*



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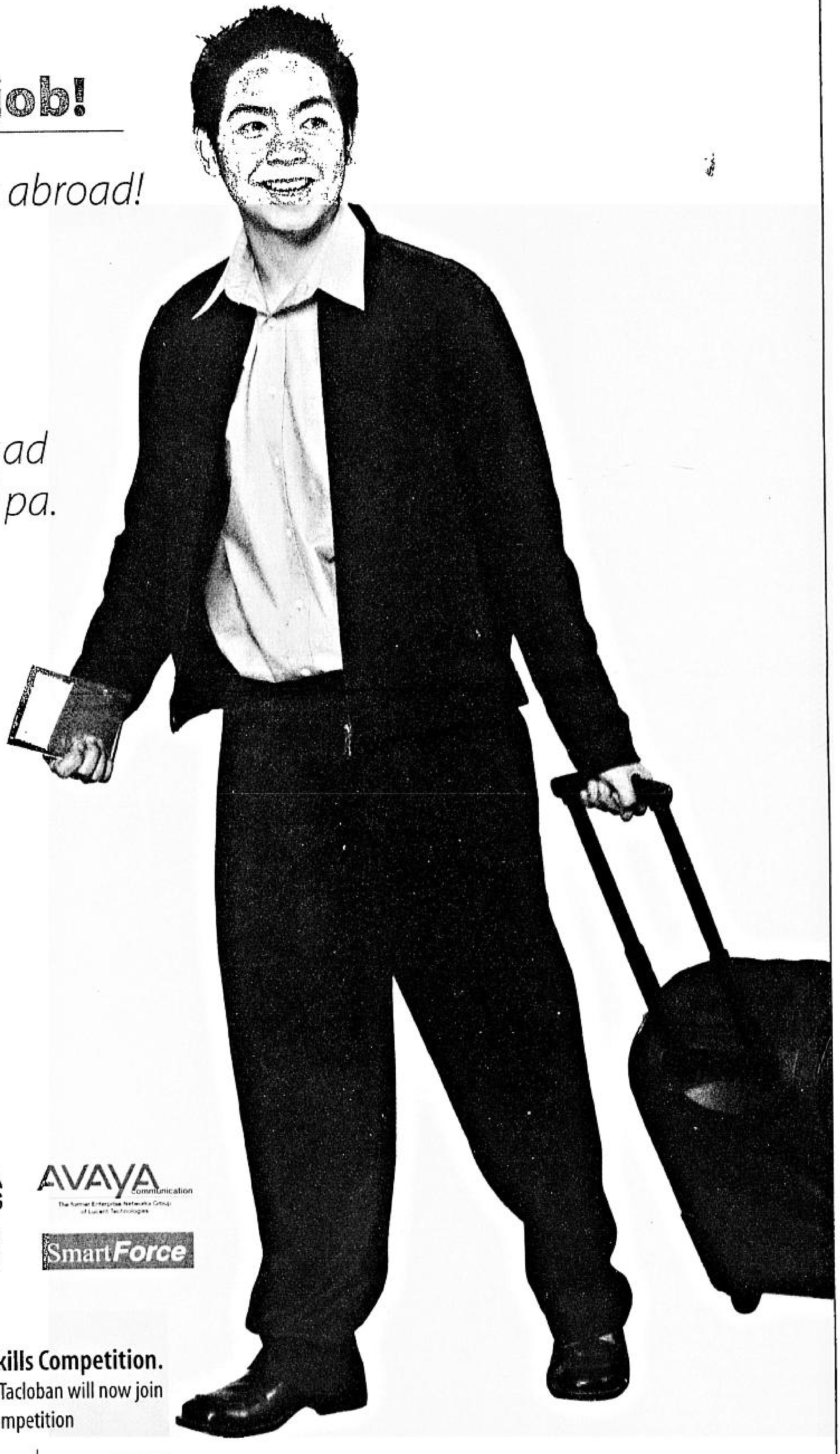

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Sunday SPORTS

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RP netters rip HK foes

By Trina Ibarle

JOHNNY Arcilla and Adelo Abadia, both victorious in the opening singles, proved even more devastating in the doubles yesterday.

The country's top two netters humbled John Hui and Asif Ismail, 7-5, 6-2, 6-3, as the Philippines took an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Hong Kong in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

The Filipinos, humbled by China, 4-1, last February, kept their slot in Group II while pushing Hong Kong to the lowly Group III.

The Philippines swept the singles matches Friday with Abadia dealing Hong Kong's No. 1 player Hiu Tung Yu a 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 whipping and Arcilla bucked a slow start to triumph over Michael Brown, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Joseph Victorino and Patrick John Tierro were originally set to play in the doubles, but coach Martin Misa decided to field Arcilla and Abadia at the last minute against the taller and more experienced Ismail and Hui.

The switch did not surprise Hong Kong. "We expected it," said Hong Kong's team cap-

RP/ A28

PBA RESUMES

Beermen seek 9th straight win

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Red Bull

LONG unloads a shot off Asi Taulava (88) and Yancy de Ocampo of Talk 'N Text in this file photo.

PDI PHOTO

COCA-COLA knows that stopping Art Long is not a sure way of stopping unbeaten San Miguel Beer.

The Tigers will keep this in mind when they seek revenge today against the Beermen at the resumption of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 4:10 p.m. match also gives the Tigers a chance to avenge their 27-point demolition from the Beermen in their first meeting three weeks ago.

The rout was the Tigers' worst since entering the league in 2002.

Red Bull (4-3) tries to recover from a 107-102 beating inflicted by the Tigers when the Barakos tangle with the FedEx Express (2-6) in the main game at 6:30 p.m.

Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes said that contrary to what other teams think, San Miguel is not just about containing Long but also putting the cuffs on the rest of the Beermen as well.

Reyes said they should also watch out for comebacking Danny Seigle, Danny Ildefonso, Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros as well as Nick Belasco and Dorian Peña, players who stepped up for the foul-troubled Long during the Beermen's 100-73 thrashing of the Tigers earlier.

"Hopefully we could find an antidote to stop not only Long but San Miguel," said Reyes, whose Tigers are carrying a 5-3 record against the Beermen's 8-0 slate.

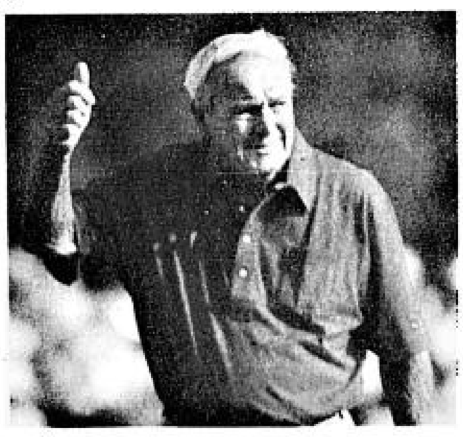
"Still, we need to defend extremely well. Our problem is we don't have a guy who could match up against Seigle," said Reyes.

"If we don't shoot our free throws well we might as well not show up," added Reyes, whose team gave up 40 free throws against the Beermen's 17 in their first meeting.

The Beermen, however, struggled in their past three games, pulling off hard-earned victories over Purefoods, Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska.

June Navarro

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ **King Arnie bids adieu; Rose keeps blooming** /A26

■ **Heat boot out Cavs; Rockets in** /A27

■ **Russian surprises injured Serena** /A28

Graham refers case to human rights center

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham C. Lim has referred the ongoing investigation on his "alleged" Chinese citizenship to the Center for Human Rights of the Ateneo Law School recently.

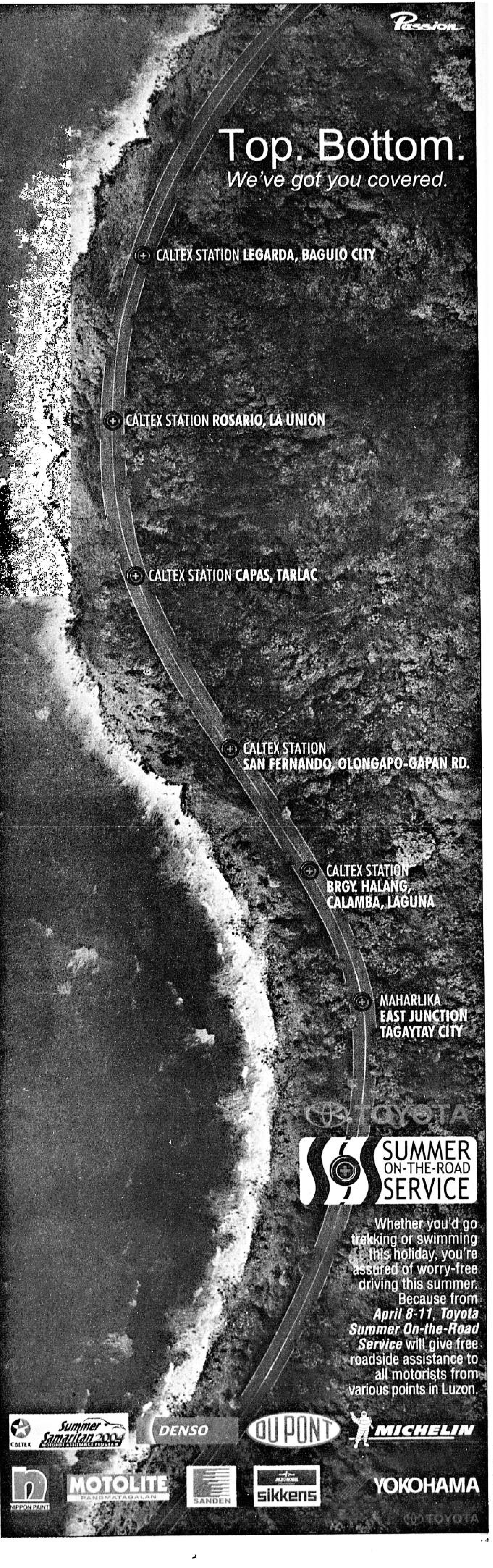
Lim was accompanied to the Center by lawyer Quirino A. Marquinez, senior partner of Bilog, Marquinez, Pobalate and Associates Law Office and met with Atty. Ray Paolo Santiago, who promised to study the merits of the case and bring it to the attention of the Commission of Human Rights.

Marquinez said the complaint filed against Lim in the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Justice and at the Department of Foreign Affairs was clearly and purely "harassment and oppression."

"The case filed against Graham Lim is highly oppressive and a violation of his human rights as a Filipino and as a citizen of this country," said Marquinez, a former Comelec commissioner and presently the president of the Consumer Union of the Philippines.

"His opponents, for some very dubious reasons, want him deported, even if they know that Lim was born here and has resided here since his birth. By doing that, they deny Mr. Lim a chance to live peacefully in the land of his birth and perform his functions as secretary general of the BAP," added Marquinez.

In his letter to the Human Rights Center, Lim cited several instances where his detractors tried to stop him from doing his work at the BAP, including an indirect threat to his life on June 30, when an unidentified person ransacked his home in Binondo.



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Whether you'd go trekking or swimming this holiday, you're assured of worry-free driving this summer. Because from ***April 8-11, Toyota Summer On-the-Road Service*** will give free roadside assistance to all motorists from various points in Luzon.

US MASTERS

King Arnie bids adieu; Rose keeps blooming

AUGUSTA, Georgia—The King said goodbye. The Masters is now in the hands of a kid.

Arnold Palmer walked up the 18th fairway one last time on Friday to an ovation longer and louder than any other in his 50 years at Augusta National, unable to hold back tears as he reflected on a career built on Sunday charges, green jackets and an army of fans.

"It's not fun sometimes to know it's over," Palmer said.

For 23-year-old Justin Rose, the fun might just be starting.

Rose, the youngest professional in the field, played a steady hand under an increasing spotlight with a 1-under 71, including a superb bunker shot to save par on the final hole for a two-shot lead.

"Playing under pressure for the right reasons is fun," said Rose, who missed his first 21 cuts after turning pro. "Playing under pressure for the wrong reasons, that's awful. This is much, much better."

On a wild day of charges and collapses, the Englishman rarely got into trouble and finished at 6-under 138 to lead Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain and Alex Cejka of Germany.

Olazabal, a two-time Masters champion, quickly renewed his hopes with an eagle-birdie-birdie stretch on the back nine and a 3-under 69. He and Cejka (70) each bogeyed the 18th hole and were at 140.

Phil Mickelson got into the mix for his first major, getting a huge break on the par-5 13th when his ball stopped short of going into Rae's Creek. He turned a bogey into a birdie and shot 69, three shots out of the lead.

And don't count out Tiger Woods just yet. Instead of throwing his clubs, he threw his fist into the air with a 40-foot birdie putt on the 16th for a 69 that left him six shots behind.

Still, the day belonged to a 74-year-old man who missed a 4-foot putt on the final hole for an 84.

From Jack Nicklaus to Average Joe, everyone came to salute the King. In one of the more poignant moments, Nicklaus was on the 16th hole when he looked up at Palmer on the sixth tee. The Golden Bear gave him a thumbs-up, and Palmer responded with a bow.

No one cared about Palmer's score, they just wanted to see him play.

The gallery was 10-deep before the King even arrived on the 18th tee, and it seemed as though everyone on the course—players, caddies and dozens of Augusta National members in green jackets—were there for the end.

"When I look out into the galleries and I see them wishing me good luck, and I think how much I owe them . . ." Palmer said, his voice cracking.

He couldn't go on, bowing and wiping tears from his eyes.

"I guess it's more difficult for me because I'm sort of a sentimental slob," he said.

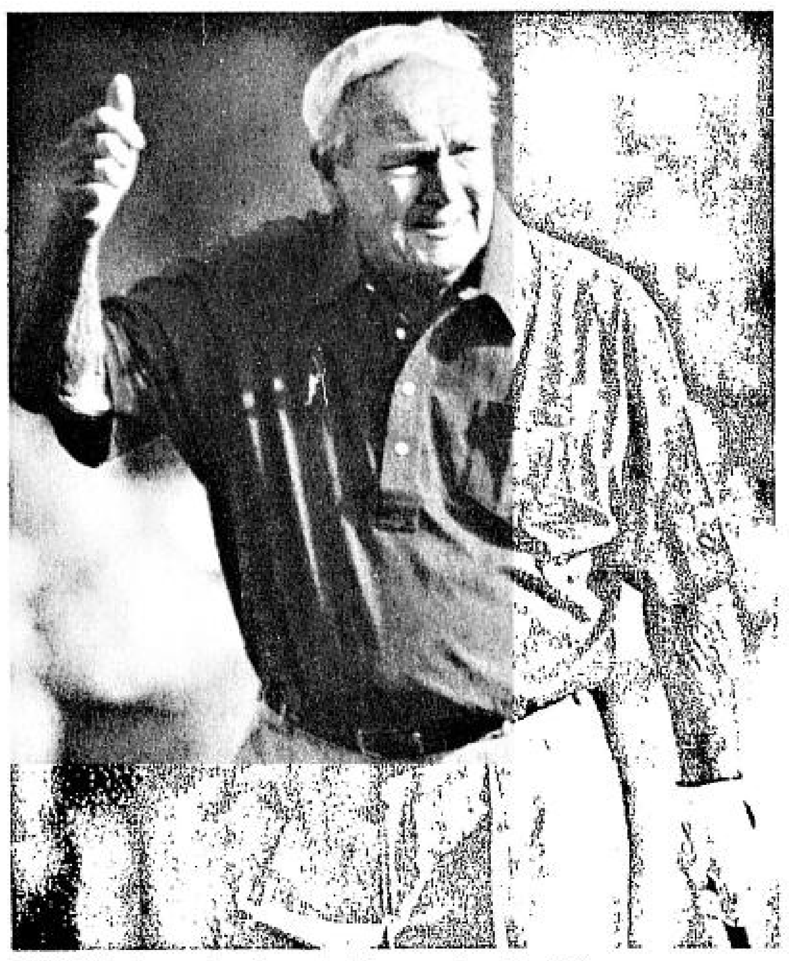
The stage now shifts to a younger generation that reflects the global state of golf.

Three Europeans were at the top of the board. K.J. Choi of South Korea tied a Masters record with a 30 on the front nine, only to follow that with a 40. Still, he was at 3-under 141 with Mickelson.

Charles Howell III, who grew up five minutes from the course, had a second straight 71 and was in a large group at 142 that included Ernie Els (72), Fred Couples (69) and Davis Love III, who charged into contention with a 67, matching Steve Flesch for the best round

KING/ A27

ROSE views his tee shot on the 17th hole.



PALMER gives a thumbs-up to the crowd on the 18th green. AFP

Loyal 'Army' salutes Palmer for last time

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Arnold Palmer waved goodbye to thousands of loyal fans here Friday after playing the final round of his 50th Masters, receiving one last standing ovation from "Arnie's Army" in return.

Spectators lined every hole to cheer the 74-year-old American golfing icon. Rivals left him to stroll along the 18th fairway up to the green, the star taking one final spotlight on one of golf's greatest stage.

"It's done," Palmer said. "I won't say I'm happy for it to be done. It's time it was done for me. It's over." Palmer fired his second consecutive 12-over par 84 and missed the cut for the 21st year in a row, but his completion of a half-century playing at Augusta National Golf Club was about love, not numbers.

"The fans, oh my goodness, they have been so supportive," Palmer said. "I guess when I look out into the galleries and I see them wishing me good luck and I think how much I owe them . . ."

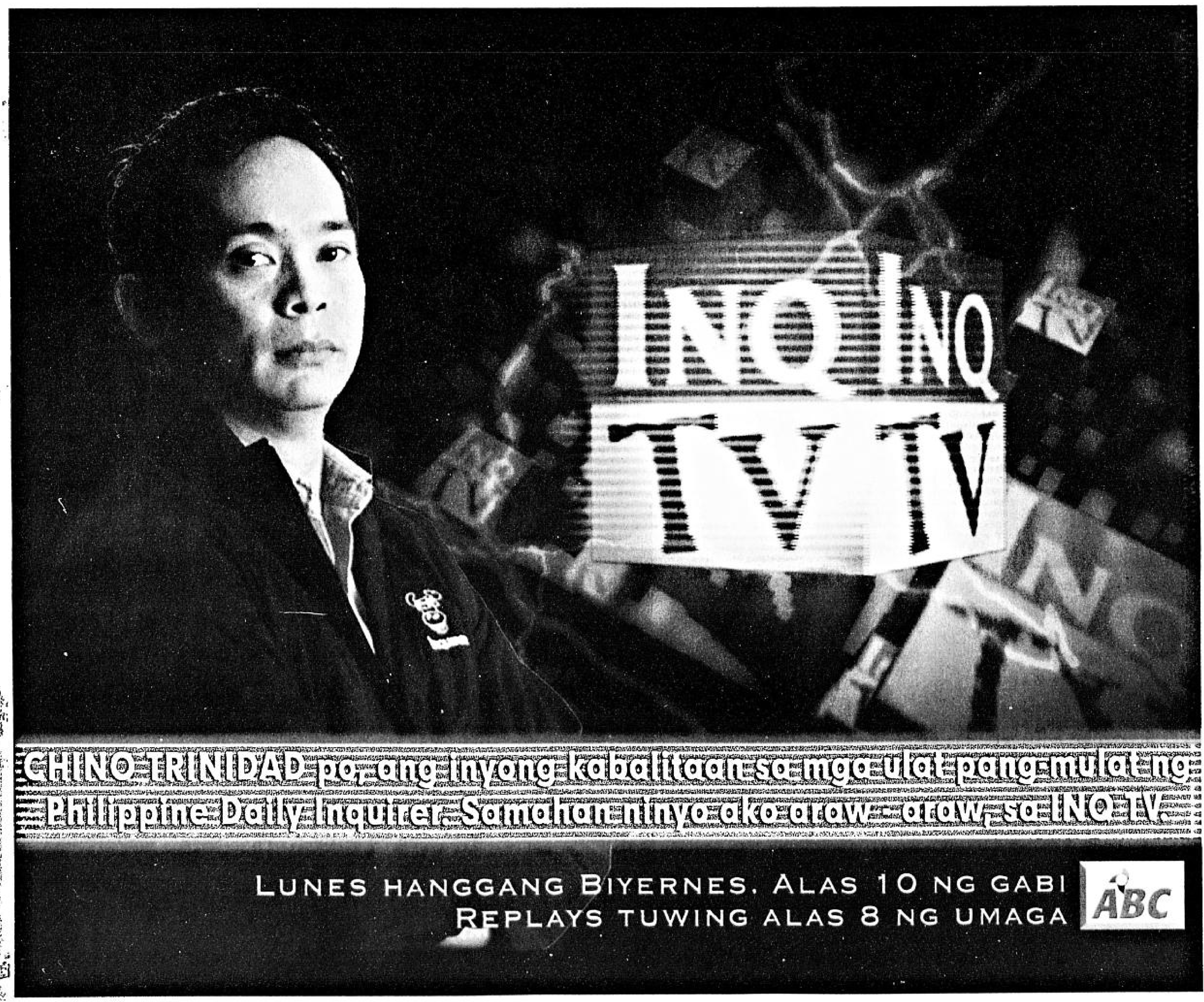
Four-time Masters champion Palmer began to cry, wiping tears from his eyes as he fought to regain his composure.

"I guess it's more difficult for me because I'm sort of a sentimental slob," Palmer said.

"They've been very supportive and I suppose that's the reason I have played as long as I have."

Palmer made a "final" farewell two years ago when Augusta National officials put an age limit on the lifetime winner's exemption, but when they rescinded the cap, Palmer decided to take his Masters starts to an even 50.

Soldiers at nearby Fort Gordon who cheered Palmer at the 1958 Masters were the military golf fans who originated "Arnie's Army," resulting in a ban on signs at Augusta and a nickname that Palmer fans worldwide adopted for decades. *AFP*



CHINO TRINIDAD po ang inyong kabalitaan sa mga ulat pang-mulat ng Philippine Daily Inquirer. Samahan ninyo ako araw-araw sa INQ TV

LUNES HANGGANG BIYERNES. ALAS 10 NG GABI
REPLAYS TUWING ALAS 8 NG UMAGA
ABC

Heat boot out Cavs; Rockets in

MIAMI—Dwyane Wade scored 20 points and Miami used a 29-8 run in the second half to pull away from the Cleveland Cavaliers in a 106-91 win that eliminated LeBron James and the Cavs from the playoffs.

"We weren't playing defense. Coach kept stressing that and we knew it," Wade said. "We just really wanted to lock down on defense and get our transition game going."

A crowd of 20,213, a record for the American Airlines Arena, saw the surging Heat win their 11th in a row at home. The Heat, who began the season 0-7, raised their record above .500 (40-39) for the first time since Oct. 31, 2001.

James kept his team in the game, but the Heat outscored Cleveland, 27-12, in the fourth quarter to kill the Cavs' faint hopes of making the playoffs.

"I'm not a loser. I'll never be a loser," James said. "It's hard, it's frustrating when we're playing hard and we lose."

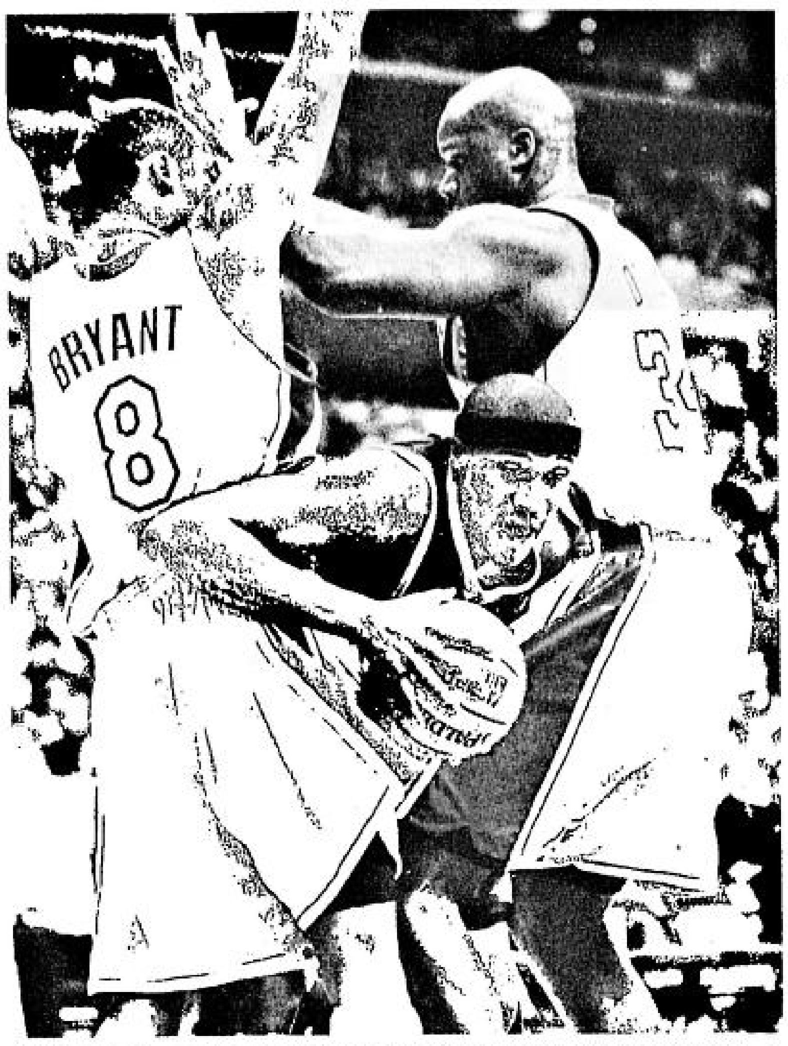
James led Cleveland with 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

Miami had six players in double figures. Brian Grant had 19 points, Lamar Odom added 18 and Eddie Jones 15. In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to lead Detroit over Toronto for its sixth straight win, 74-66, over the Toronto Raptors.

Tayshaun Prince added 14 points, while Ben Wallace had 16 rebounds and Rasheed Wallace added 12 boards.

In Indianapolis, Ron Artest's 24 points and four steals helped Indiana beat New Jersey, 90-80, and clinch homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

The victory assured the Pacers (59-21) of having the best record in the league and also set their NBA franchise record for wins in a season. The Pacers can eclipse their all-time record, set in the ABA, with a win Monday at Philadelphia.



MEMPHIS' James Posey squirms his way between Bryant and O'Neal. AP

In Houston, Steve Francis made a season-high 33 points as Houston edged Denver, 106-103, to clinch a playoff berth for the first time in five years.

Francis hit four freethrows and Cuttino Mobley made a 3-pointer in a span of 1:35 to give Houston its biggest lead, 99-92 with 2:29 to play.

In Oakland, California, Kevin Garnett had 29 points and 15 rebounds as Minnesota thrashed Golden State, 92-74, to stay atop the Western Conference with its seventh straight victory.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points and 12 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers downed Memphis, 103-95. *AP*

Complete results:

Washington 83, Philadelphia 80; Miami 106, Cleveland 91; New Orleans 89, Boston 80; Detroit 74, Toronto 66; San Antonio 84, Portland 74; Indiana 90, New Jersey 80; Atlanta 116, Chicago 101; Houston 106, Denver 103; Minnesota 92, Golden State 74; LA Lakers 103, Memphis 95; Phoenix 101, Sacramento 96.

King Arnie bids adieu . . .

From page A26

of the week.

It all starts on Saturday with Rose, who lacks major championship experience but certainly not the real-life variety.

Along with missing the cut in his first 21 tournaments as a pro, Rose's father and coach, Ken Rose, died in September 2002 of leukemia just one month after watching his son play his first major in the United States. *AP*

2nd round scores:

138—Justin Rose 67 71

140—Alex Cejka 70 70, Jose Maria Olazabal 71 69

141—K.J.Choi 71 70, Phil Mickelson 72 69

142—Charles Howell III 71 71, Ernie Els 70 72, Davis Love III 75 67, Chris DiMarco 69 73, Fred Couples 73 69

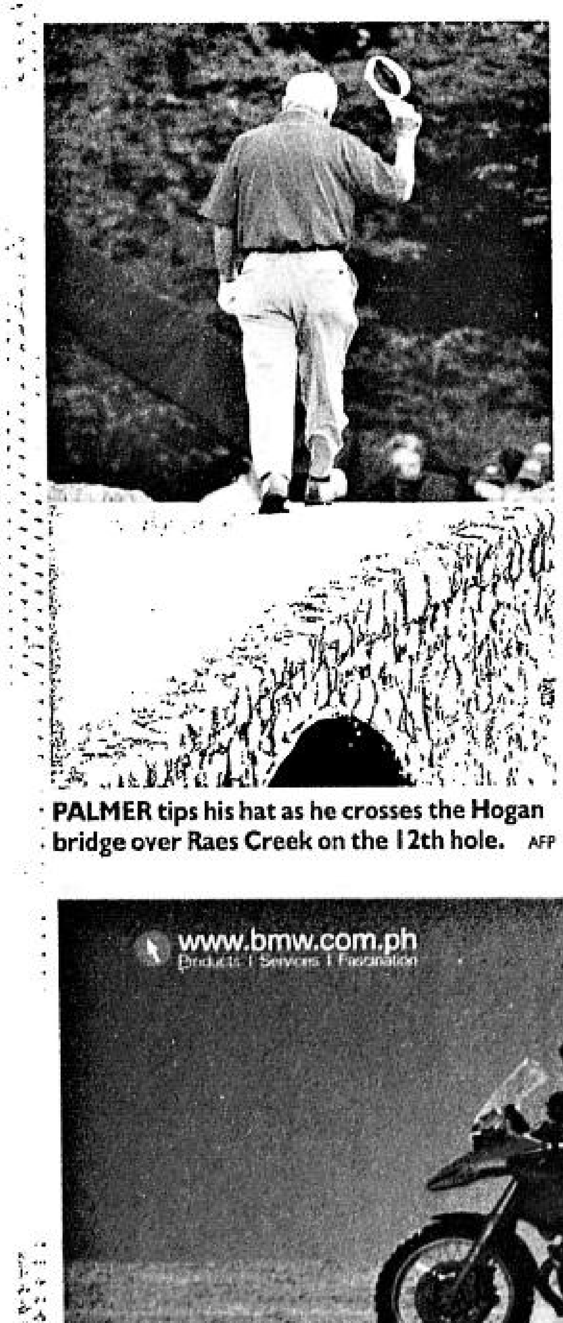
143—Jeff Sluman 73 70, Steve Flesch 76 67, Mark O'Meara 73 70

144—Paul Casey 75 69, Tiger Woods 75 69, Jay Haas 69 75, Sergio Garcia) 72 72, Bernhard Langer 71 73

145—Kirk Triplett 71 74, Nick Price 72 73, Scott Verplank 74 71

146—Bob Tway 75 71, Sandy Lyle 72 74, Jerry Kelly 74 72

147—Stephen Leaney 76 71, Phillip Price 71 76, Stewart Cink 74 73, Eduardo Romero 74 73, Tim Petrovic 72 75, Paul Lawrie 77 70, Stuart Appleby 73 74 **Reuters**


PALMER tips his hat as he crosses the Hogan bridge over Raes Creek on the 12th hole. AFP

Weighing Woods

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WE will know by tomorrow the winner of the Masters, the first major of the year. And the papers will publish it on Tuesday.

Who would it be?

Tiger Woods? John Daly? Mark O'Meara? Vijay Singh? Adam Scott? Padraig Harrington? Davis Love III? Bernhard Langer? Jose Maria Olazabal? Sergio Garcia? Phil Mickelson? Stuart Appleby? Peter Lonard? Retief Goosen? Craig Parry? Darren Clarke?

Anyone among them could be it. Or it could be someone else. Like defending champion Mike Weir. Or David Toms maybe? Even Nick Faldo?

Of all sports, the hardest to predict is the winner of a golf tournament.

How many times have we seen unknowns surging from nowhere to steal the crown? Micheel Shaun and Ben Curtis were winners of two majors last year when they weren't even among the Top 100 in the world when they teed off.

How many times have we seen leaders with reputations adorning their names collapsing in a most bizarre manner?

Greg Norman's case a while back is still fresh in the mind.

The Australian Shark had looked like a winner with his seemingly insurmountable lead going to the last round until a maze of bogeys derailed his much-anticipated march to victory. He was missing the fairways and greens very often that he saw more flora than flagsticks in his four-hour trip to purgatory. Credit it to Norman's fortitude that he did not fling himself into one of the ponds surrounding Augusta National after Nick Faldo had grabbed the victory from him.

The game is so humbling, humiliating, and Norman's woes in the majors have not left him. He was absent last year after getting a rare foreign invitation in 2002. This year, he was not invited again to the world's most exclusive golf tournament on a course co-designed by Alaistair MacKenzie and the legendary Bobby Jones. Jones, a linguist who has a doctorate in literature and is an engineer, is regarded as the best golfer of all time who never turned pro.

Golf is one sport where the littlest of details about the game, about its practitioners, is already grist for copy.

Take Tiger Woods for example. Each of his moves is followed by the media with gusto. His hair suddenly dyed. His girlfriend from Sweden. His change of drivers.

Before his emergence, the game had been basically either Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer. OK, include Billy Casper, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, even Ken Venturi or De Vicenzo or Chi Chi Rodriguez or The Merry Mex who coined the line, "Only God can hit a one-iron." Every now and then, others would come along, but no one has had the impact that accompanied the birth of Tiger Woods.

So dominating was Tiger Woods that his presence alone in a golf tournament would strike fear in the field—even before the first tee shot is hit.

So consistent was Tiger Woods in winning, sometimes in great fashion, that each time he entered an event after he won the 1997 Masters, he would always be the favorite to prevail. He won most of the time and would soon topple records the way Paeng Nepomuceno toppled tenpins in bowling when he's hot as a rod.

No golfer starting in the '90s other than Tiger Woods has captured the imagination of the world with such decisiveness and thoroughness that even when Tiger Woods was in a slump, he still remained the talk of the town, the clubhouse fare.

But recently, Tiger Woods wasn't winning anymore.

Has he lost his grip on the game?

Some have blamed it on Woods' decision to restructure his swing even as he had already become the winner of the Masters.

In this game, it's not easy changing your swing. You can change clubs every week and that's not much of a problem.

Tiger Woods has also dumped his swing coach, Butch Harmond. He's been on his own, with only his blonde girlfriend, seemingly, to lean on in times of despair.

Could that be the reason for his slump?

Because of the Holy Week, this piece was done when the Masters has yet to begin. I can only wish that Tiger Woods makes it to the weekend to make his 121st consecutive cut.

That'd be quite a feat in itself.

Happy Easter!

***

FASTBREAK. My *Kuya* Boy, our eldest in the family, is celebrating his 65th birthday today. His charming and super-kind wife, *Manang* Lydia, is going to prepare a feast like no other. Happy birthday, *Kuya* Boy, the best *Kuya* in the world. Let me also take this occasion to greet Satur (Rep. Ocampo) a belated happy birthday (April 7). You talk of genuine heroes of the Filipino people, living or dead, there's *Ka* Satur for you.

SPORTSWATCH

Spinks gets big fight against Judah

LAS VEGAS—Before he beat Ricardo Mayorga to become the undisputed welterweight boxing champion, Cory Spinks was known mostly for being the son of former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks. He's a champion of his own now and has a big fight on Saturday night against Zab Judah to prove it. But Spinks still finds himself overshadowed by a heavyweight—in this case, Wladimir Klitschko. Spinks fights Judah in a dangerous yet attractive title fight that should top a card. But heavyweights rule in boxing, and Klitschko's fight with Lamon Brewster will be the featured bout at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino. Klitschko is the younger half of the Ukrainian brother team. His brother, Vitali, fights on April 24 for the WBC heavyweight title vacated by Lennox Lewis, and Wladimir is trying to rebound from a knockout loss to show he is a legitimate contender, too. Spinks (32-2, 10 KOs) has already shown he belongs in the champion's league. *AP*

Cebu bets rule taekwondo meet

TEAM Cebu City leaned on its talented junior women's team and its promising grade school squads to nip Negros Taekwondo Union for the overall crown in the 2004 Samsung Best-of-the-Best Taekwondo Championships at the SM City-Cebu recently. Arvina Pugoy, Maricielynda Balbona, Frauline Joy Coran and Richelle Dinolan beat their rivals in the final of their respective divisions to account for four of the nine golds which TCC hauled in the two-day meet sponsored by Samsung and the Philippine Taekwondo Association. NTU actually wound up with the same number of golds—nine—but the TCC jins clinched the overall title with more silver and bronze medals—seven and 12 compared to NTU's seven and five effort. Pugoy ruled the flyweight class with a 6-4 win over Air Force 1's Lovely Dizon; Balbona pulled off a 2-1 victory over Lapu-Lapu's Janice Cabalhug in their bantamweight clash; Coran outclassed Tacloban's Maricris Ejorcadas, 5-1, in the featherweight class while Dinolan likewise scored a 5-1 rout of Bohol's Dyan Gudes in their middleweight bout.

Derby entries submission set today

COCKERS and breeders who are seeing action in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Bakbakan Open National 8-Cock Derby" are reminded to submit official entries today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The six-day cockfest (April 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23) is sponsored by Asvet, Vitarich Panabong and Thunderbird Platinum. Submission of weights as well as matching of entries will be held at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. For inquiries, contact Taz Lunasco at 926-7808 and 924-5072, 924-5051 (loc. 128). Entry fee is P15,000 with guaranteed prize money of P3 million. The 3-cock elimination round tomorrow is exclusive for LGBA members and their guest entries while eliminations on April 14 is reserved for LGBA (re-entries) and other Luzon-based associations. Eliminations on April 16 are open to any participant provided she/he is endorsed by any member of an association under the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders.

Ortiz retains Najdorf chess crown

FILIPINO National Master Eduardo "Korthnoi" Ortiz scored 8 wins and 1 draw for a total of 8.5 points in nine games en route to retaining the crown in the 2nd Najdorf Fide invitational chess tournament recently at the Hancock Foundation building in Los Angeles, California. Ortiz, a former MWSS chess team standout, defeated Fide Master Michael Casella, Danyul Lawrence, Alan Combe, Vanessa West, Mike Zaloznyy, Kofi Tatum, Chad Salinas, Simone Sobel and drew with compatriot Reynaldo "Rey" Del Pilar of Tanauan, Batangas. On the other hand, Del Pilar settled for a solo second place with 7 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. Del Pilar, a former member of the PNP chess team, suffered his only loss at the hands of Zaloznyy.

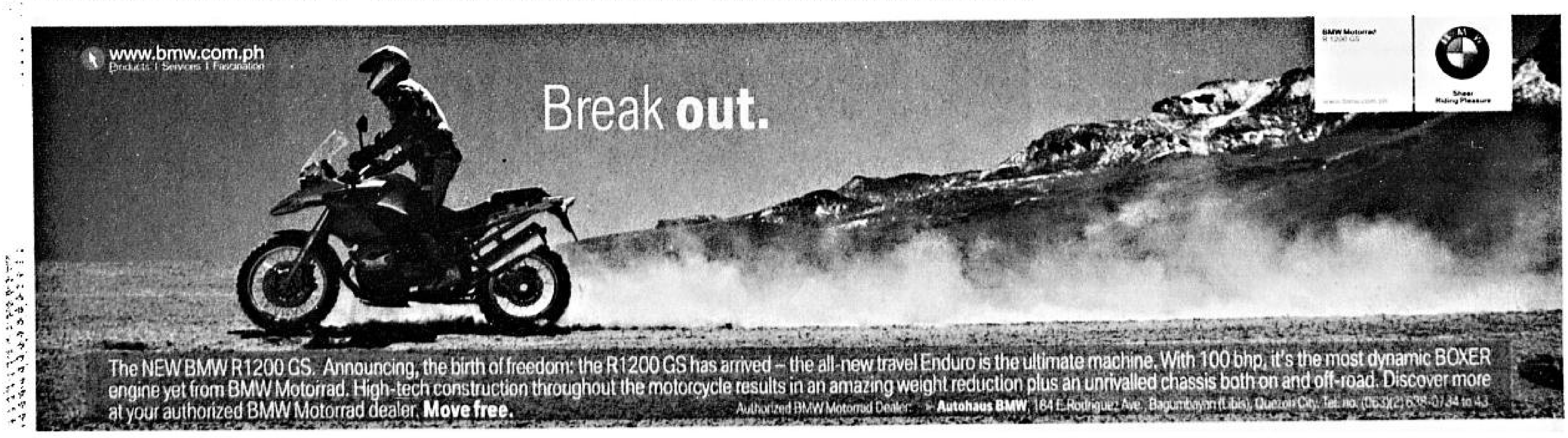
NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Inter-province chess listing on

REGISTRATION for the 2004 National Inter-Province chess team championship is now in full swing at the National Chess Federation Secretariat, 4th floor Tempus Bldg. II, 21-A Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City. The event, organized by the NCFP in cooperation with the Department of Local Government, will be hosted by the province of Palawan headed by Gov. Joel T. Reyes and Ferdinand Dilig, GSO Head and provincial local finance committee chair. This year's tourney will be held at Pavilion Hall, Capitol Bldg. in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, on April 27 to May 1. Interested teams may contact NCFP office at tel. 435-1114, project director Willie Abalos (0918-6523265) or tournament director NM Renato Seratubias (0919-6939577). *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

PALAWAN Gov. Joel T. Reyes (seated, left) and NCFP project director Willie Abalos sign the memorandum of agreement for the 2004 National Inter-Province chess team championships in Puerto Princesa City on April 27-May 1. Also shown are the members of the Palawan provincial board led by Art Ventura together with provincial lawyer Romeo Seratubias, tournament director, Puerto Princesa Chess Association president NM Renato Seratubias and provincial sports coordinator Sunshine Cabiguen.

PHILIPPINES
YOUTH TEAM DONATION. The RP Burlington Youth team to the 2004 Seaba Junior Championships recently visited the Angels Home, a haven for orphans and abandoned streetkids in Marcelo Green Village in Parañaque, Metro Manila. Above photo shows Ms Gloria Fernandez of Angels Home receiving the donations of Burlington socks and balls from the members of national squad for 18 and under.



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Russian surprises sore-legged Serena

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida—Bothered by a sore knee, Serena Williams made 42 unforced errors Friday and lost for the first time since June.

She dropped a quarterfinals match in the Bausch & Lomb Championships to Russian Nadia Petrova. After the first game of the second set, Williams called for a trainer, who put a bandage on her left knee.

"I blew out one of my wheels today," Williams said. "I was only working with three out of four, so to speak."

Seventh-seeded Petrova beat No. 2 Williams, 6-2, 6-3, in 77 minutes, ending the American's eight-match winning streak to begin her comeback from an eight-month injury layoff.

Also advancing were world No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne, Amelie Mauresmo and Lindsay Davenport.

Williams underwent surgery on her left knee last season, and was out of tennis for eight months. She made a triumphant return to the WTA circuit at the Nasdaq-100 Open in Miami last month, winning the event.

Coming into the match, Williams was 8-0 in 2004 and had lost only one set all season. She also was 3-0 lifetime against Petrova, but the Russian recorded four aces in the first two games she served while Williams was having trouble getting her first serves in.

Play continued after Williams was treated, but she slipped and fell after losing the first two points of the next game. From that point, Williams essentially played with one leg and grit.

In the semifinals Saturday, Petrova will take on fourth-seeded Davenport, who recorded two victories Friday.

She got her first in the morning after finishing off Australian Alicia Molik, 6-4, 7-5. The match started Thursday evening, but with Davenport leading, 6-4, 5-5, heavy rains forced the players inside and the match had to be postponed.

In the afternoon, the American defeated Paola Suarez of Argentina, 6-4, 6-1. *AP*

PETROVA reacts to a missed shot against Williams. AP

RP netters . . .

From page A25

tain Derick Ling.

What the visitors did not expect was the terrific drubbing Abadia and Arcilla dealt on their taller and more powerful tandem.

With the tie secured, Misa assigned the remaining singles today to Victorino and Tierro, who will face Yu and Brown, respectively.

Abadia and Arcilla encountered tough opposition only in the first set before taking the next two points from a 5-5 tie.

The Filipinos easily wrapped up the second set after racing to a 4-0 lead that led Hui to smash his racket on the shell-clay sand court in frustration.

Hui and Ismail made a game of it in the third set, staying with the Filipinos at 3-all.

But their powerful serves deserted them and Abadia and Arcilla quickly exploited this to win the next three games and wrap up the match.

Misa was pleased with the outcome although he said his two aces need some more improvement in the doubles. "They were still tentative on the return. But I am happy that we won that game," he said.

Roddick shines as US ties Sweden

LONDON—Andy Roddick beat Thomas Enqvist, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2, Friday night, leaving the United States and Sweden tied 1-1 at the end of a long opening day in their best-of-five quarterfinal.

American Mardy Fish lost the first match to Jonas Bjorkman, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5. Counting four rain delays that totaled more than three hours, the two matches in Florida took nearly nine hours to complete.

Fish and Bjorkman endured three rain delays and played for nearly three hours. Bjorkman must bounce back quickly for his doubles match Saturday with Thomas Johansson against top-ranked Bob and Mike Bryan.

The 32-year-old Bjorkman improved to 34-14 in Davis Cup singles and doubles, including 6-0 against Americans.

In the other quarterfinals, 2003 runner-up Spain and newcomer Belarus grabbed 2-0 leads, and top-ranked Roger Federer and Switzerland were tied 1-1 with visiting France.

Past French Open champions Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya won easily on clay to lead Spain against Netherlands, and big servers Max Mirnyi and Vladimir Voltchkov won in straight sets as Belarus took the lead against Argentina.

Federer won his match for Switzerland before Arnaud Clement tied the best-of-five series for the French.

The Argentina-Belarus winner will play the United States-Sweden winner in the semifinals in September, with Spain or the Netherlands facing Switzerland or France.

At Palma de Mallorca, Ferrero beat Raemon Sluiter, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, after Moya got past the man Ferrero defeated in the 2003 Roland Garros final, Martin Verkerk, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. *AP*

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1 PETER PAN
11:30, 1:40, 3:50
6:00, 8:10, 10:20
GP

2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
PG-13

3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
PG-13

4 SCOOBY-DOO 2
11:35, 1:40, 3:45
5:50, 7:55, 10:00
GP

Hall of Fame

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THIRTEEN more jockeys, trainers and horses were nominated for the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in the US last Monday.

Among them were jockey Jose Santos, trainer Nick Zito and horses Skip Away and Manila.

The nominees will be voted by 140 members of the racing media with the announcement set for May 25 and induction on Aug. 9.

To be inducted to the Hall of Fame is perhaps the greatest honor bestowed on anyone. Halls of Fame in basketball, boxing, baseball, hockey, tennis, etc. are always considered as prime stuff in all sports pages.

It pains me to realize that after all these years, this Hall of Fame thing is not given attention here, not even a blimp on the Philippine racing radar.

If there were a Philippine Racing Hall of Fame, I presume that the likes of jockeys Elias Ordiales, Jesus Guce and Eduardo Domingo Jr. and horses Sun God, Fair and Square, Skywalker, Sun Dancer and the other Triple Crown winners would have been inducted there.

The exploits of Elias, the original "Maestro," remain legendary in local racing. Since Ordiales passed away, the tag has been given to Guce, whose uncanny riding ability still mesmerizes jockeys, young and old alike.

Guce, then a skinny 15-year-old rookie, first broke to prominence when he piloted Short Circuit to victory 34 years ago.

In 1975, Domingo came into the scene, notching his first win on She, signaling the start of a great rivalry with Guce which lasted for several years.

Sun God was the best galloper in the early '70s, the era's most famous steed, until Fair and Square made history by becoming the first horse to sweep the Triple Crown in 1981.

Racing old-timers, I think, would agree if we also include jockeys Fernandez, Cartasano, Geni, Macaraig and Elpidio Aguila as well as horses Don Juan, Noor, Fiorella, Reporter and Newsboy to the elite list of inductees.

If there were a Philippine Racing Hall of Fame, Wind Blown would have been nominated this year and he'd be a cinch for induction because his exploits are indeed of Hall of Fame caliber.

As for the present crop of jockeys, the likes of Pat Dilema, Fernando Raquel Jr., Manolito Daquis and Jeffril Zarate are sure to make it there, too.

Perhaps, it's about time that local racing officials (those from the Philracom, Marho and Philtobo maybe?) consider putting up a Hall of Fame, Philippine-style.

Kung may local version *ng* Breeders' Cup *at* Derby, *mas lalo sigurong pwede kung may* Hall of Fame *din tayo, di ba?*

And as for the "*viajero*" jockeys, "*wa*-class" race venue and stewards, and the bogus racing group, they should be inducted to the "Hall of Shame" at once!

Happy Easter!

***

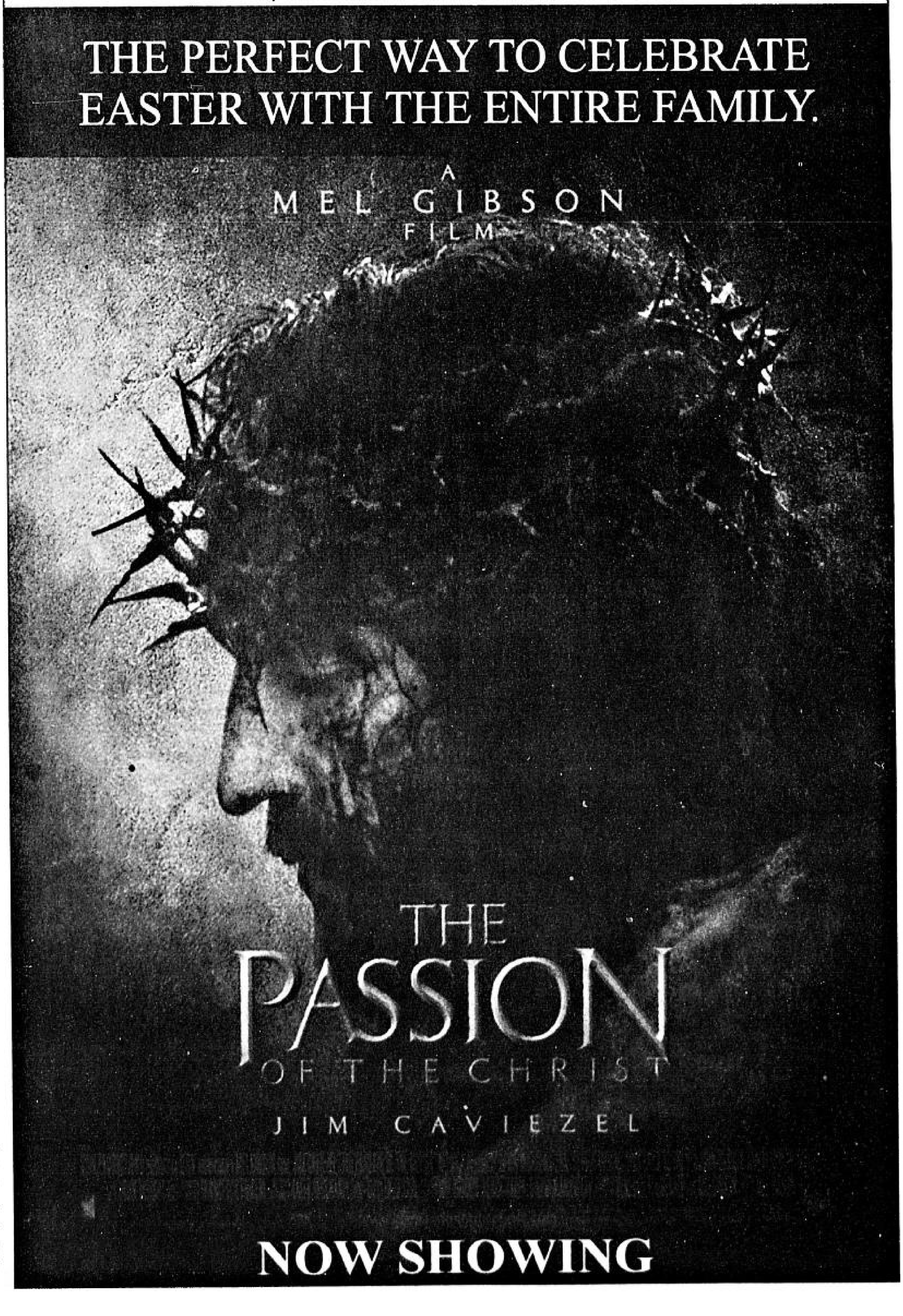
E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Classic Movie Star 2. Smile of the Wind 3. Incredible Boy 4. Southern Prince 5. Princess Naida
Race 2—1. Air Force One 2. Star Worth/Little Girl 3. Commodore Tiger 4. Silver Place 5. Angie Gray/Fly Aday Fly 6. Blue Sheikh
Race 3—1. Risk Taker 2. Blitzkrieg 3. Rio 4. Western Legend
Race 4—1. Race for Gold 2. Free Hand 3. She Boom 4. Front Page 5. Hope
Race 5—1. Cast D Net 2. Kantayok 3. Longshot Tony
Race 6—1. Moab/Semper Spirit 2. Empire King 3. Don Paolo 4. Batangas Force 5. Cover Girl
Race 7—1. Mina sa Isla 2. Michael's Way 3. Gabriela 4. Bring Home D Bacon
Race 8—1. Super Magic 2. Silver Lining 3. Pride of Cebu 4. Flash Kelly
Race 9—1. Royal Magic 2. Stormy Alydar 3. Dashing 4. Time Deposit 5. Prickly Heat
Race 10—1. Batang Cabu 2. Ganda 3. Real Charm 4. Solid North 5. Kusang Loob 6. Ocean Dignity
Race 11—1. Scene Stealer 2. Silver Music 3. Born Perfect 4. Song Bird/Nureyev Heiress 5. Zero Gravity
Race 12—1. Speed Machine 2. Wear the Fox Hat 3. L'Islet Sur Mer 3. Ilocos Queen 5. Mrs. Big 6. Shesh D Besh/Queen of Diamonds

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS BELOW 10 YEARS BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES.



THE PERFECT WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY.
A MEL GIBSON FILM
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
JIM CAVIEZEL
NOW SHOWING

Challenge 2004 participants' attitude and quest to win.

The extreme half-court game of street basketball returns as adidas stages the adidas Streetball Challenge 2004. Scheduled to kick off with the NCR leg on April 17 at the SM Megamall open area parking grounds, the screening of teams will be held on April 11-15 in front of the adidas Brand store Ali Mall and on April 16 at the adidas shop at the upper ground floor level, building A of SM Megamall.

The competition then gets going at the Ateneo De Naga on April 23, Dela Salle Lipa on April 25,St. John School, Dagupan on April 29, St. Louis University of Baguio on May 2 and Robinsons Star Mills in Pampanga on May 7 to 9.

For the Visayas phase, on May 21 at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo, May 23 at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod and at the SM Cebu on May 28-30.

For the Mindanao face-offs, Corpus Christi High School Cagayan de Oro on June 11, Ateneo De Zamboanga on June 13 and at the Gaisano Mall of Davao on June 18-20.The National Finals is scheduled on July 3 and 4 at SM Baguio.

Team members must be present during the screening with their entry forms completely filled out and 1 x 1 photos. Each player is asked to present valid proof of identification, a photocopy of their birth certificates, along with the original & NSO authenticated copies, valid school I.D. & certificate of enrollment or certificate of residence (for LGU teams), written permission from their parents/legal guardians and a signed waiver of responsibility for event-related injuries.

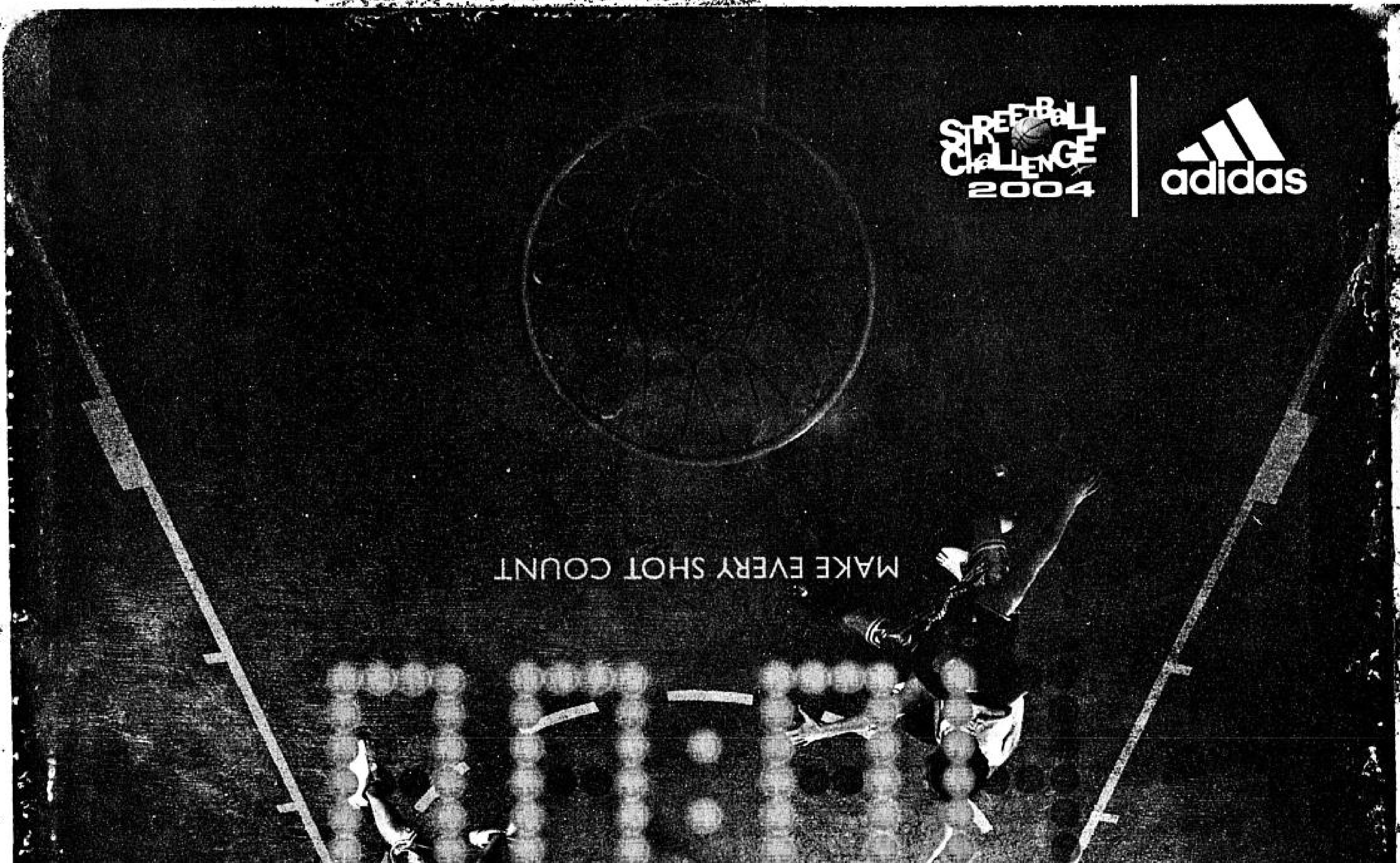
Each team is entitled to four members, plus one coach who is of legal age. All players, including the team coach will receive free uniforms. The adidas Streetball Challenge 2004 national champions will be tasked to don the country's colors and represent the Philippines to the adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2004 to be held this coming September in Seoul, Korea.

Interested parties may contact TEAM Ventures at 522-5953 or 4009745.

The adidas streetball challenge 2004 is co-presented by Globe Gentext in cooperation with WG&A zip, Cebu Pacific, adidas fragrance and body care for men, Snickers Chocolates, Powerade, Milo,Mentos and Studio 23.

"2003 adidas Streetball"

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



From ten minutes to the very last second, the desire to score never runs out.

Open to all 9 to 19 years old students. National Finals winners will receive a trophy, P10,000 and a P20,000 gift certificate plus the chance to play in the Asian Streetball Finals in Seoul, Korea. NCR Eliminations will be held at SM Megamall Parking Grounds from April 17-18. For more details, call Team Ventures at 400-9745.

IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING.

CO-PRESENTOR:

MAJOR SPONSORS:

MINOR SPONSORS:

And if you're a Globe subscriber, join the adidas Impossible Is Nothing Challenge Text Trivia Promo! Text IIN to 2211 now! Just answer the trivia questions you will receive via SMS for a chance to win P5,000 worth of adidas merchandise, daily! At the final draw, a winner will be awarded with P100,000 worth of adidas merchandise.

Text IIN Send to 2211

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0681, series of 2004. Promo period is from April 1 to April 30, 2004. See flyers for details.

Empire King aims to bounce back

EARLY Triple Crown favorite Empire King tries to bounce back when he competes in the 2nd leg of the Philracom Road to Triple Crown Stakes today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The event headlines Manila Jockey Club's Easter Sunday program consisting of 12 exciting races starting at 3 p.m.

Empire King was upset in his last outing at SLLP by Music Express but he is expected to go up as favorite when he faces 11 other rivals in what could become a sneak preview of the Cojuangco Cup—first leg of the 2004 Triple Crown Series set for May 23 at the SLLP.

Heading the challengers are Don Paolo and coupled bets Moab and Semper Spirit.

Also in the hunt for the P750,000 race to be disputed over 1,600 meters, are Albatross, Andee's Time, Batangas Force, Cat's Jewel, Cover Girl, Gorgeous Sand, I Love This Game, Shadowfox and Toril.

Winner of the race is guaranteed to receive P450,000, with P168,750, P93,750 and P37,500 going to the second thru fourth placers, respectively.

Jays rip Red Sox

BOSTON—The Toronto Blue Jays went ahead with three RBI doubles in the eighth inning to spoil the Boston Red Sox's home opener with a 10-5 win on Friday.

Reed Johnson and Kevin Cash each drove in three runs for Toronto, which was swept in an opening three-game series at Detroit. *AP*

Complete results:

AMERICAN LEAGUE—Texas 12, Anaheim 4; Toronto 10, Boston 5; Chicago White Sox 9, NY Yankees 3; Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3 (10 innings); Kansas City 3, Cleveland 1; Oakland 8, Seattle 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE—Houston 13, Milwaukee 7; Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 1; Florida 4, Philadelphia 3; NY Mets 3, Montreal 2 (11 innings); Chicago Cubs 2, Atlanta 1 (15 innings); St. Louis 13, Arizona 6; Los Angeles 5, Colorado 1.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20	PETER PAN GP 11:10, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00	TAKING LIVES R18 11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	UNINVITED R13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30	PETER PAN GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

After X-Men & LXG comes a new special-effects-packed comicbook adventure !
PREPARE TO BE BLOWN AWAY APRIL 21 !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES
HERE TO PROTECT
HELLBOY
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
Hellboy-Movie.com

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
SASAPIAN KA NG MULTO UMPISA NGAYON.
Wala pang mas nakakasindak dito!
the ghost is invited to dinner at your house.
the Uninvited
Jeon Ji-Hyun
(the star of My Sassy Girl)
Park Shin-Yang

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

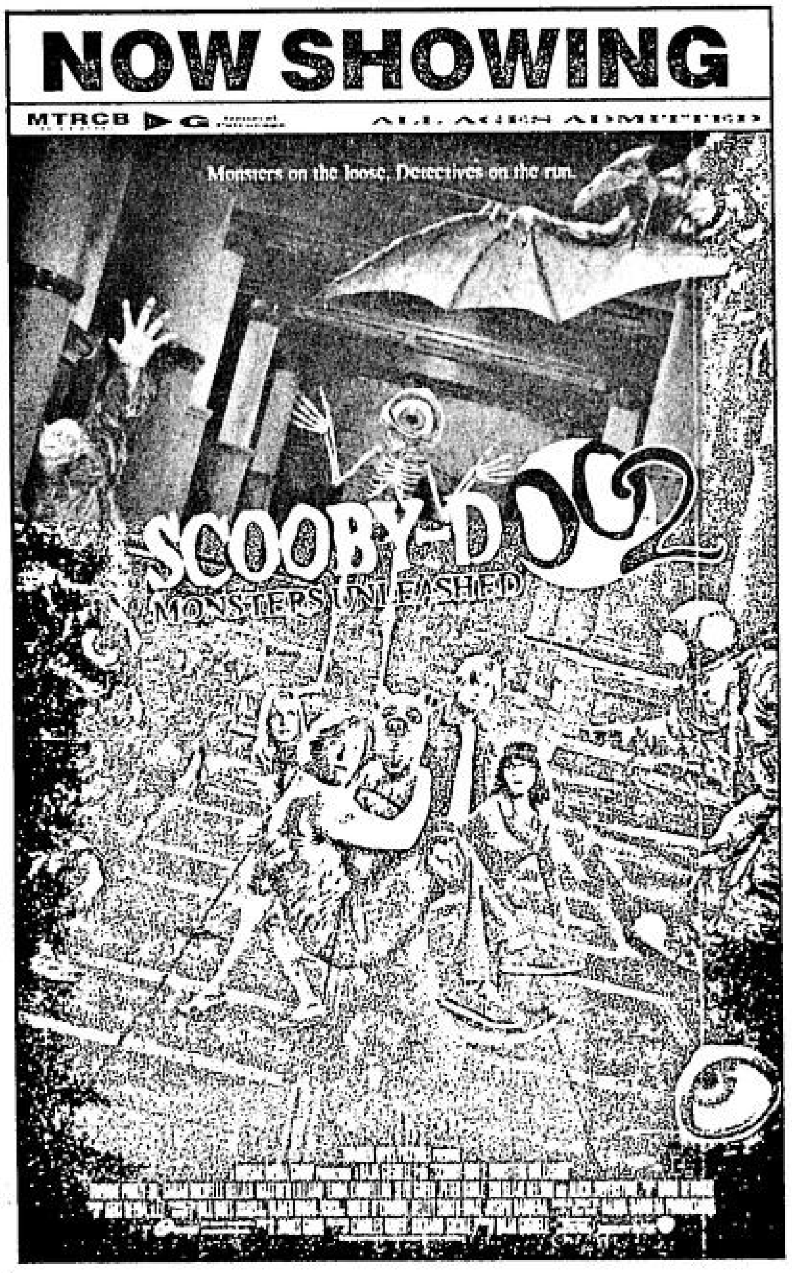
Ali 3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 5	PETER PAN
Ali 6	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Ali 7	OTSO OTSO

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

APR 11	PBA : FED EX VS. RED BULL
APR 13	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 14	PBA : PUREFOODS VS. RED BULL
APR 15	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 16	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOUBLE PREMYO
APR 17	18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORD'S FLOCK
APR 18	PBA : COKE VS. FEDEX
APR 20	NCA 7 - COCK DERBY
APR 21	PBA : SHELL VS SAN MIGUEL

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB ▶ G ALL AGES ADMITTED
Monsters on the loose. Detectives on the run.
SCOOBY-DOO 2
MONSTERS UNLEASHED

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIGAYA / NANABIK
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KASIPING
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	KARIBAL
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HAUNTED OFFICE
CINEMA-6	GRUDGE 2
CINEMA-7	TORQUE
CINEMA-8	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OR THE CHRIST
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-12	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-14	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
CINEMA-15	50 FIRST DATES

LORES

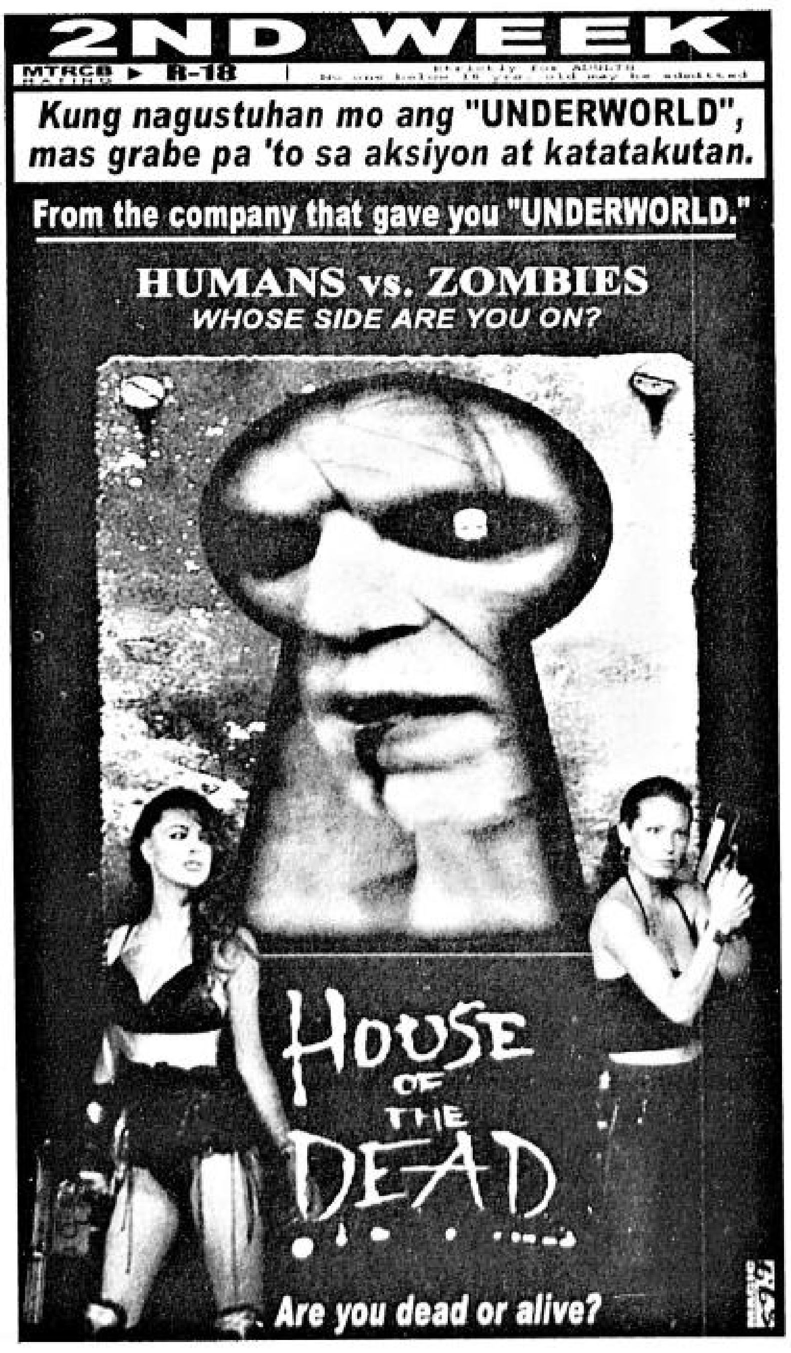
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

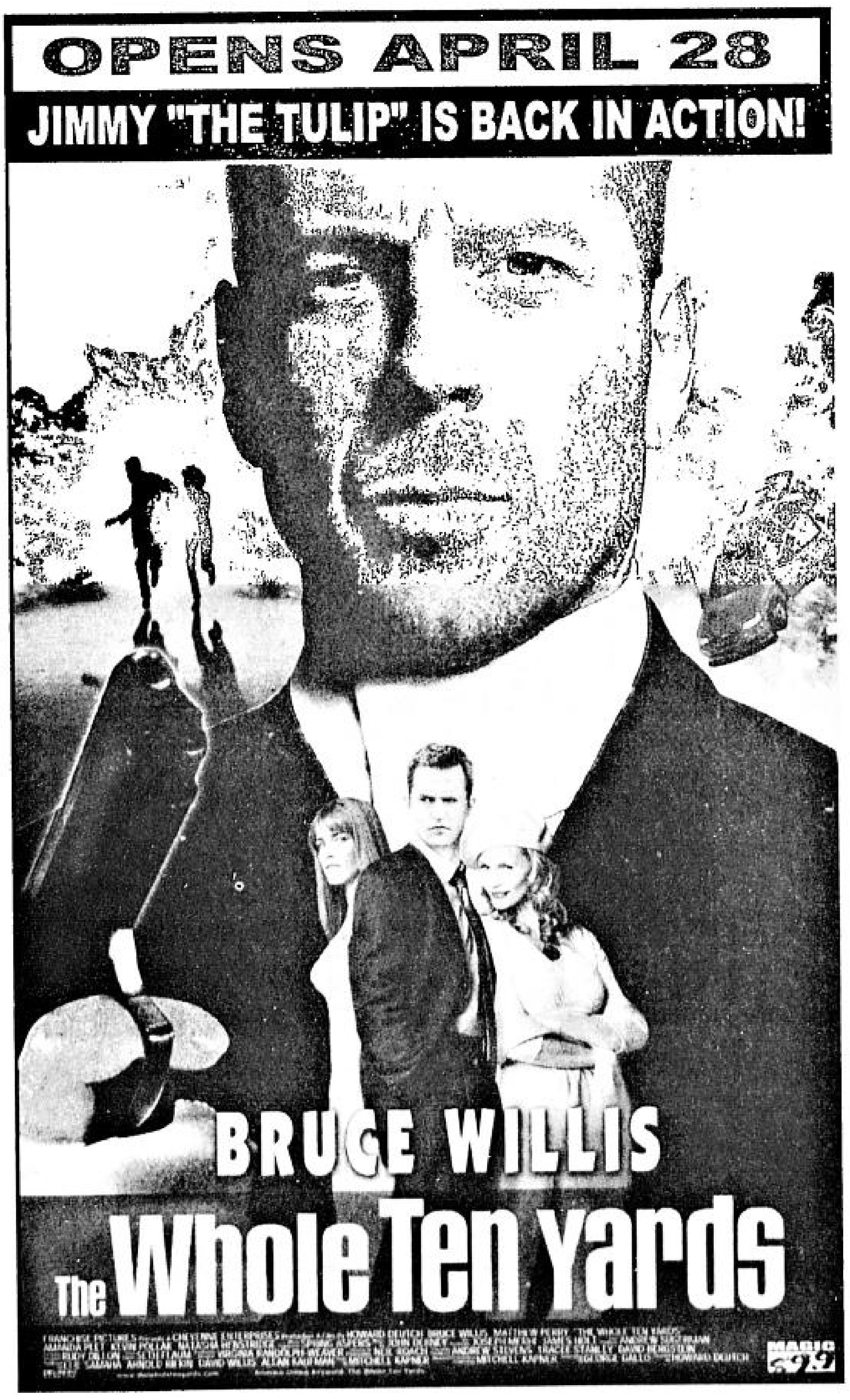
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	THE CURSE
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-4	DRAGON VS. NINJA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA


2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18
Kung nagustuhan mo ang "UNDERWORLD", mas grabe pa 'to sa aksiyon at katatakutan.
From the company that gave you "UNDERWORLD."
HUMANS vs. ZOMBIES
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Are you dead or alive?


OPENS APRIL 28
JIMMY "THE TULIP" IS BACK IN ACTION!

TBAM Classic meets slated

THE TENPIN Bowlers Association of Makati (TBAM) will hold its 6th TBAM-Prima Easter Classic and the 1st Silver Wings Senior Classic on April 16 to 20 at The Powerbowl, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, in Makati.

Opening ceremonies will be held on April 15 at 6 p.m.

Among those invited are former Rep. Peping Cojuangco and FIQ and PBC president Steve C. Hontiveros, both as guest speakers, and Don Manolo M. Lopez as guest of honor.

Expected to participate in this prestigious tournament are CJ Suarez, the 2003 Men's World Cup Champion; Lisa del Rosario, Asian Bowler of the Year 2003, and members of the National Team led by Biboy Rivera, the defending champion.

Prizes at stake are worth P450,000 in gifts and certificates plus trophies. A P20,000 cash prize awaits the first bowler to roll a perfect game.

The TBAM board is composed of Jerry T. Lee, president; Boysie A. Castillo, EVP and tournament director, Bert S. Lim, VP Senior Development; Charlie S. Tupaz, VP Youth Development; Odjie C. Guerrero Jr., treasurer; Andy M. Remoroza, PRO, and Girlie F. Solis, secretary.

The tournament is sponsored by Prima Pasta, SilverWings Express Inc., IServe International, Amstar Printing, Kenway Courier and Astor Enterprises.

The 12th TBAM JRS-Prima Pasta Open follows the Easter Classic on April 22-30, also at The Powerbowl.

Tuason sparkles in karting

CARMONA, Cavite—Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile sparkled by tallying his second straight win in the Formula Rotax Expert class of the Shell Karting Superseries yesterday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Tuason pulled away from the pack midway through the 20-lap race and held on to win in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

He finished the race in 16:59.747 or a far 6.926 seconds ahead of runner-up Marcel Thenu.

Manny Sy of Primus Racedevils took third place while Lee Bumgarner of M&M Racing and Archie Rubio checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sharing the limelight with Tuason were Daniel Cleak and Ayrton Cuesta.

Cleak ruled the Formula Rotax Novice class against Chill Angeles of Primus Racedevils and Dondie Lopes.

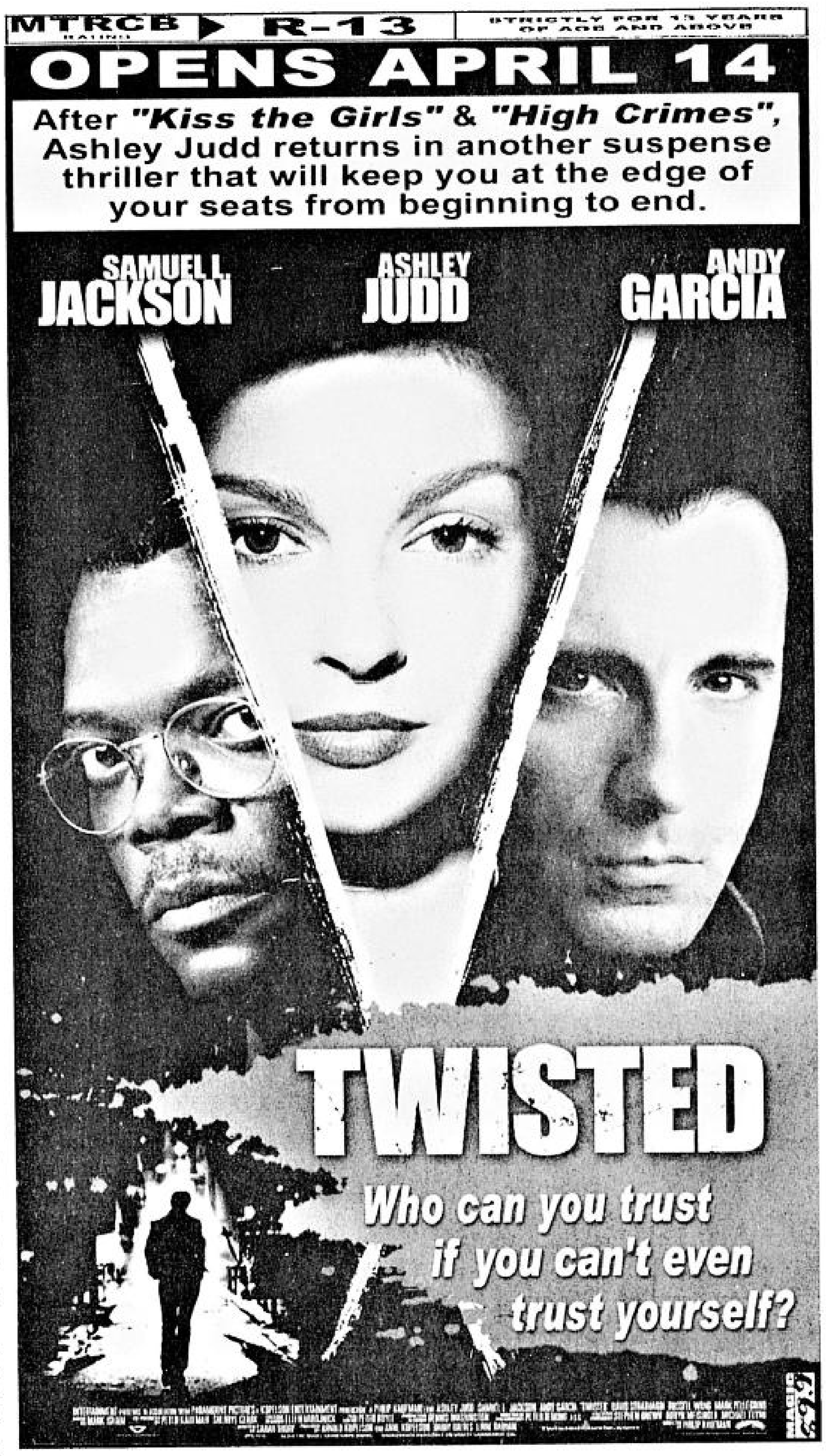
SPORTS TV

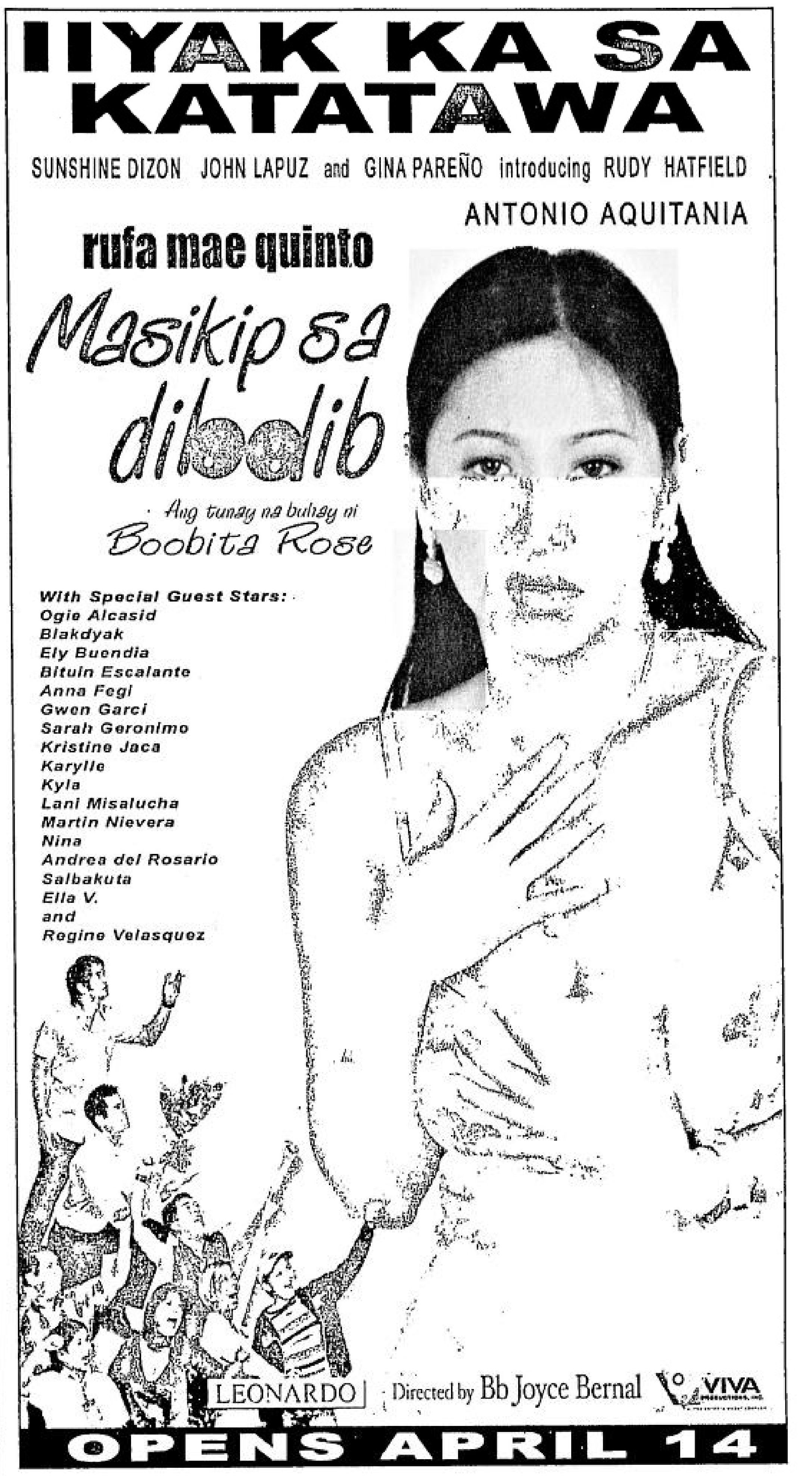
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

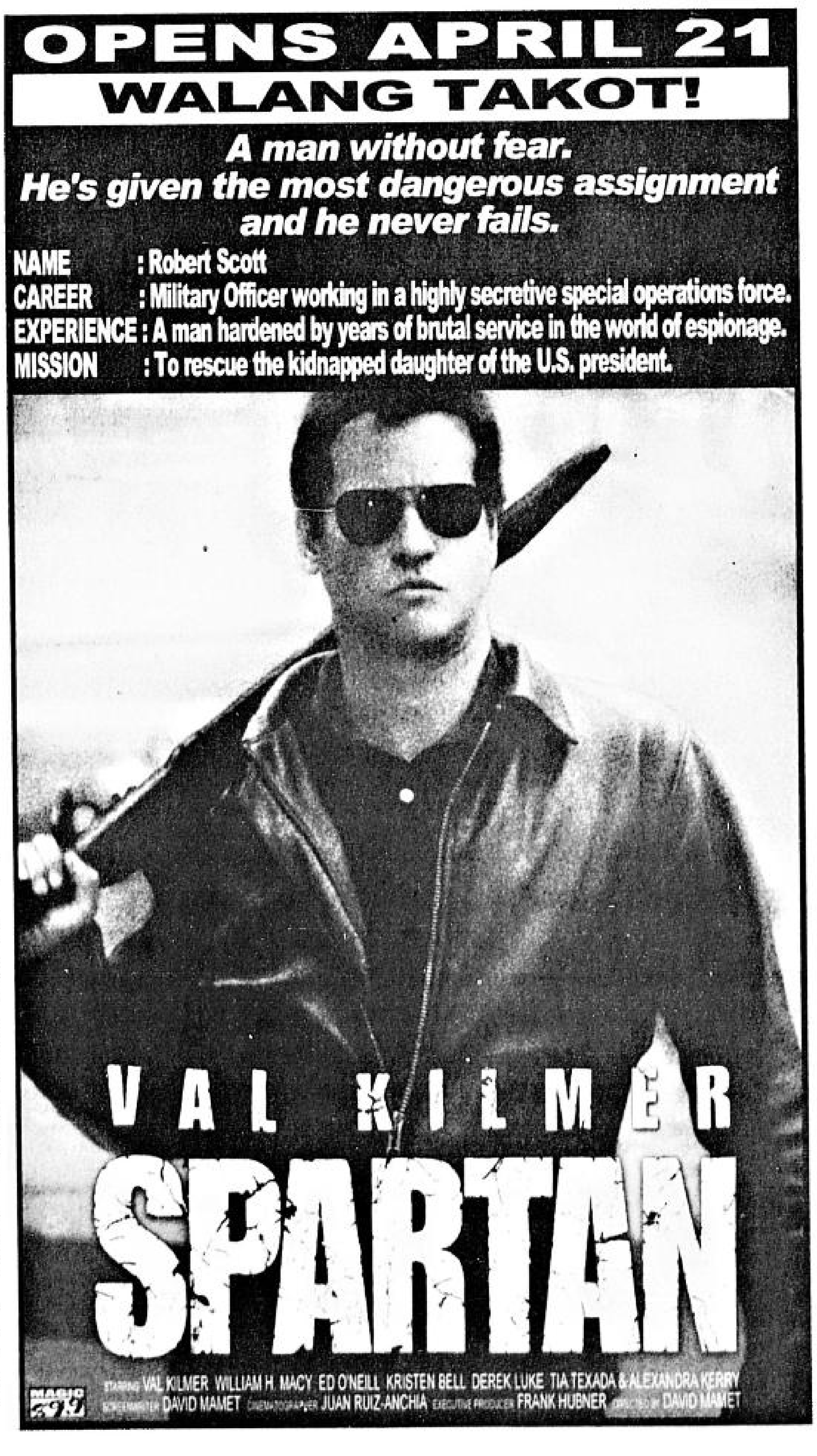
GOLF: 2004 Masters-Third Round Preview; 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (r); Third Round; 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (r) Third Round Highlights; 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (r); Final Round Preview; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Final Round at 2:30 a.m.; Star Sports—It's down to the final 36 holes before someone wears that much-coveted green jacket.

BASKETBALL: NBA-Pistons vs Magic; 7 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Led by Ben Wallace, Detroit will try to foil any Orlando offensive onslaught.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

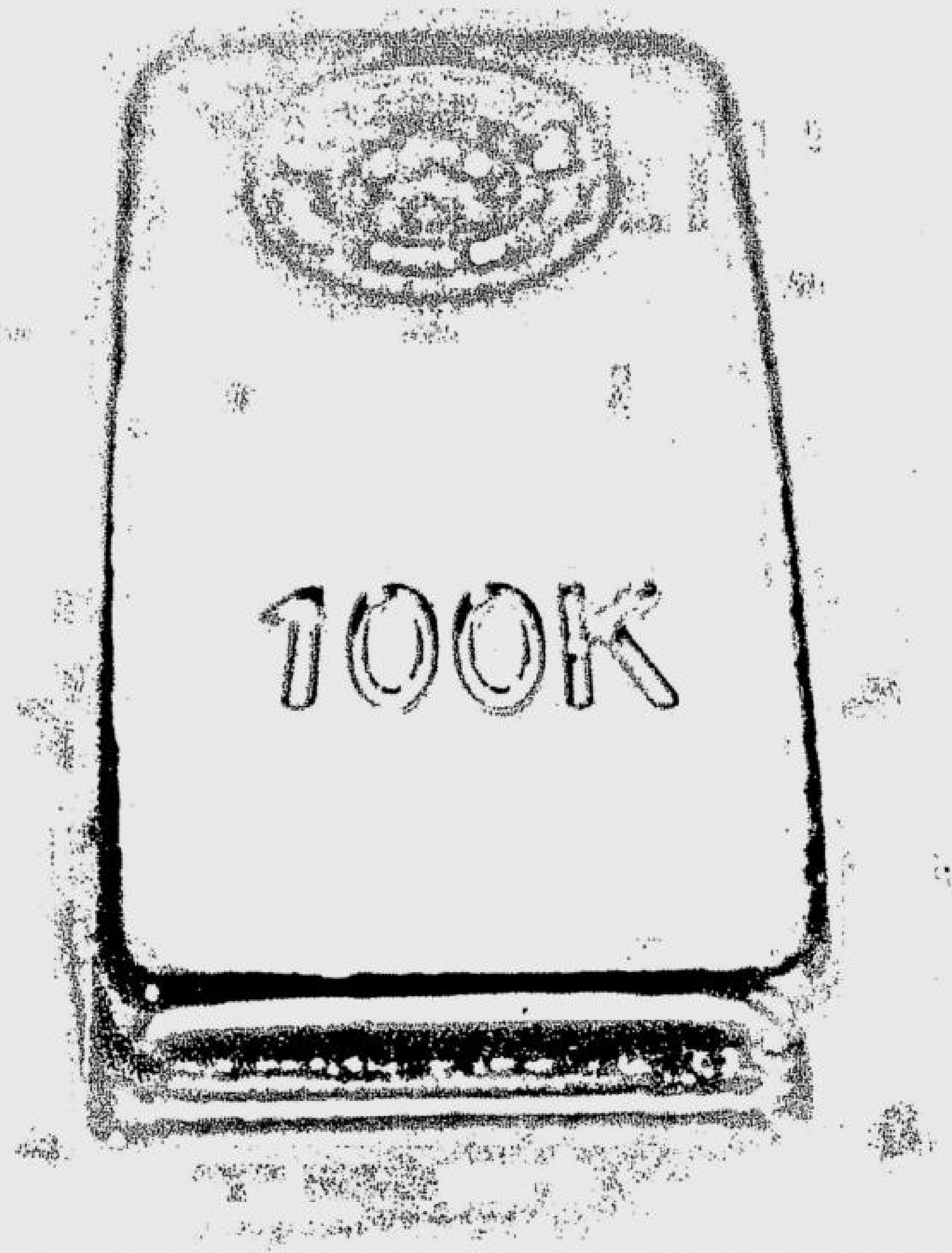

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
OPENS APRIL 14
After "Kiss the Girls" & "High Crimes", Ashley Judd returns in another suspense thriller that will keep you at the edge of your seats from beginning to end.
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
ASHLEY JUDD
ANDY GARCIA
TWISTED
Who can you trust if you can't even trust yourself?


IIYAK KA SA KATATAWA
SUNSHINE DIZON JOHN LAPUZ and GINA PAREÑO introducing RUDY HATFIELD
ANTONIO AQUITANIA
rufa mae quinto
Masikip sa dibdib
Ang tunay na buhay ni Boobita Rose
With Special Guest Stars:
Ogie Alcasid
Blakdyak
Ely Buendia
Bituin Escalante
Anna Fegi
Gwen Garci
Sarah Geronimo
Kristine Jaca
Karylle
Kyla
Lani Misalucha
Martin Nievera
Nina
Andrea del Rosario
Salbakuta
Ella V.
and
Regine Velasquez
LEONARDO Directed by Bb Joyce Bernal VIVA
OPENS APRIL 14


OPENS APRIL 21
WALANG TAKOT!
A man without fear.
He's given the most dangerous assignment and he never fails.
NAME : Robert Scott
CAREER : Military Officer working in a highly secretive special operations force.
EXPERIENCE : A man hardened by years of brutal service in the world of espionage.
MISSION : To rescue the kidnapped daughter of the U.S. president.
VAL KILMER
SPARTAN
STARRING VAL KILMER WILLIAM H. MACY ED O'NEILL KRISTEN BELL DEREK LUKE TIA TEXADA & ALEXANDRA KERRY
SCREENWRITER DAVID MAMET CINEMATOGRAPHER JUAN RUIZ-ANCHIA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FRANK HUBNER DIRECTED BY DAVID MAMET

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
THE MOST EXPLOSIVE MOVIE EVENT OF THE YEAR!
THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON A PAST HE WAS PAID TO FORGET.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE II AND FACE/OFF
BEN AFFLECK
AARON ECKHART
UMA THURMAN
PAYCHECK
OPENS APRIL 14

Passion



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- Most stretched financing plans from **12 to 72 months** for the RAV4 4x2 SV.
- **Special discount** for cash buyers.

**Subject to credit approval.*

RAV 4

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
RAV4 4x2 (9.82%dp)	1,018,000	100,000	79,897	55,031	43,718	31,342	25,572	21,791	
RAV4 4x2 (50%dp)	1,018,000	509,000	42,858	29,506	23,445	16,793	13,691	11,651	10,927

REVO

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
REVO VX 200 A/T	965,000	100,000	75,103	51,729	41,097	29,463	24,039	20,618
SR A/T	891,000	100,000	68,410	47,119	37,437	26,839	21,899	18,780
GSX A/T	842,000	100,000	63,978	44,066	35,014	25,102	20,481	17,564
GLX A/T	802,000	100,000	60,360	41,574	33,036	23,684	19,324	16,570
GL GAS	693,000	100,000	50,501	34,784	27,645	19,819	16,171	13,864
DLX GAS (15.20%dp)	658,000	100,000	47,335	32,603	25,914	18,578	15,159	12,995
DLX GAS (50%dp)	658,000	329,000	27,417	18,278	14,561	10,430	8,503	7,230

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LICUANAN RETIRES AFTER 16 YEARS

An Ayala takes over Ayala's most profitable firm

AYALA

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BY the middle of the year, an Ayala will take over as president of Ayala Land Inc., the real estate arm and most profitable member of the Ayala group of companies.

The Ayala group, however, was not being cute when it chose 43-year-old Jaime I. Ayala to take over the reins of the company from president Francisco H. Licuanan III, who is retiring at the end of June after heading the company since its inception in 1988.

There is much more to him than just having the same name as the country's oldest conglomerate. Jimmy often quips that he is Jaime 'di (not) Ayala, not Jaime Zobel de Ayala (former chairman of the Ayala group).

He brings to the company an enviable resumé that includes a 19-year stint with leading global consulting firm McKinsey and Co., where he was a senior partner and played a number of global and regional leadership roles.

Lone Filipino

He was the only Filipino to have been elected to McKinsey's global partnership.

His resumé also shows a stellar academic career, graduating Magna Cum Laude in Economics at Princeton University, with a minor in Engineering.

He went on to the Harvard Business School where he finished his Masters in Business Administration with honors.

With him at Harvard was Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, a classmate of his older brother, although it was not the first time that the two met, as the two families have been friends for some time.

The Zobel family, thus, knows that he has lived by the values of integrity and loyalty all his life.

But it still took the Ayala group close to three years of coming up with the criteria and looking at the resumés of a number of candidates before it finally decided to put Jaime I. Ayala at the helm of one of the group's crown jewels.

'Very tough'

ALI chair Fernando Zobel explains that naming a successor to Licuanan was a "very tough" process as Licuanan built what used to be a unit under Ayala Corp., with P300 million in assets in 1988, into a highly diversified real estate firm with over P67 billion in assets as of 2003.

Zobel told the stockholders during the recent annual meeting that ALI's performance record is a tribute to many of Licuanan's personal qualities, including his keen intelligence and wisdom, his mastery of the art of the deal and the shaping of strategy, his uncompromising loyalty and adherence to principle.

As a result, many of ALI's sub units such as the residential units, commercial centers and industrial estates have balance sheets that are better than many companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The unit heads, Zobel says, are company presidents in their own right.

"So the complexity of running something like that is enormous. That is why we looked long and

AYALA/ B3

LICUANAN III

Doc's hobby lights up big candle firm

LIPA CITY—First, it was a curiosity that turned into a hobby. Later, it became an obsession and a love affair with beautiful candles. The result is one of the country's biggest candle businesses—and among the first to have an overseas franchise in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"I was only 28 in 1995 when I was attracted to the cover of a book on the art of candle-making. That time, I had already graduated from the Far Eastern University's medical school and was waiting for the result of the board exam. And since I was not busy that time, I made the candles according to the book, until it became a hobby," Marichu Carstensen says.

Marichu was still single then. A natural born artist, she was able to do all the candle samples in the book and became hooked on candle making.

She never thought that the hobby-turned-obsession nine years ago would become Doc's Candles, one of the biggest candle chains in the country, with over 15 franchises nationwide and still growing even overseas.

Secret

"The instructions in the book were very easy, but you have to experiment on your own. And I also discovered that the author didn't really reveal all the techniques in candle making. There were still secrets that you have to discover on your own. Then it becomes your secret. And that is my secret now," Marichu says.

Years later, Marichu even met the book's author, David Constable, a candle-making guru in Europe, during a trip to London.

At first, Doc's Candles products were just sold to raise funds for her project, teaching the kids of Lipa how to paint.

That time, Marichu was already a resident doctor at the Lipa Medix Hospital.

Despite the distance, Morten Carstensen, her Danish boyfriend at that time, who used to reside in Makati City, would regularly visit her in Lipa.

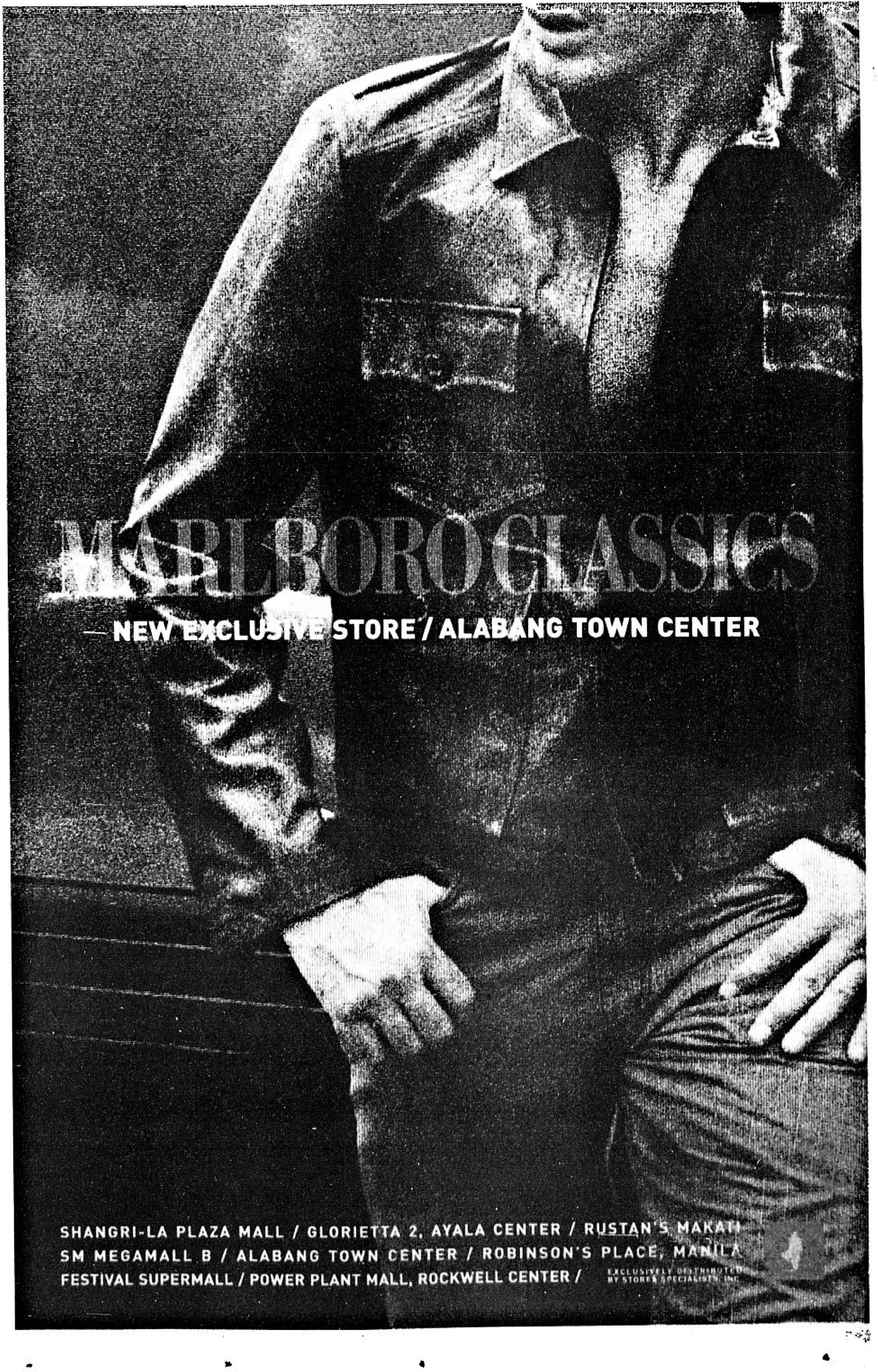
"Then Morten suggested that I take the candles to the Danish Coffee Morning, a café in Makati frequented by expats. When the people there saw the candles, they were so happy and nobody left the café without a candle in their hand. The candles were all sold out," Marichu says.

Then the two decided to start a business. They had a small candle factory with only two helpers.

DOC'S/ B4

MEI MAGSINO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"DOC" Marichu and Morten Carstensen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Homegrown cake maker rises to challenges

LUCENA CITY—When Marcelo Dealo, the late grand old man of Dealo Industries based in sleepy Lucban, ordered a high-end bakery oven straight from Germany in 1958, little did he know that one of his daughters would later look at it as a primary basic lesson on how to survive the complex business arena.

Milada Dealo-Valde, now in her late 50s, vividly recalls how the German sales representative of Winkler Oven got the surprise of his life when he delivered the latest bakery equipment not in Metro Manila but in a rustic community nestled at the foot of Mt. Banahaw.

"My father was so ahead of his time. Although short of formal schooling, he exerted effort to be abreast of the latest in the trade when global competitiveness was still an alien trade concept," Valde says.

A chip off the old block, Valde also possesses that gung-ho attitude when it comes to her own cake and pastry business that started in Lucban and eventually carved a niche of its own in Lucena City.

"I just want to prove that a homegrown industry, a small family-owned company could also compete with Manila-based giant competitors," Valde stresses as she recalls her painstaking struggles.

Dealo Industries started off as a coffee manufacturer which has now become the largest and oldest biscuit and cookie manufacturer in Quezon.

Bakery products

Its wide range of quality bakery products such as camachile, galletas, romano, kinalibkib, broas and other crunchy favorites have become synonymous with Lucban, joining the ranks of its native langgonisa and pansit.

Dealo Industry now exports its cookies and biscuits to the United States, Canada and the Middle East under the popular "Ang Tunay na Pinoy Biscuit" company slogan.

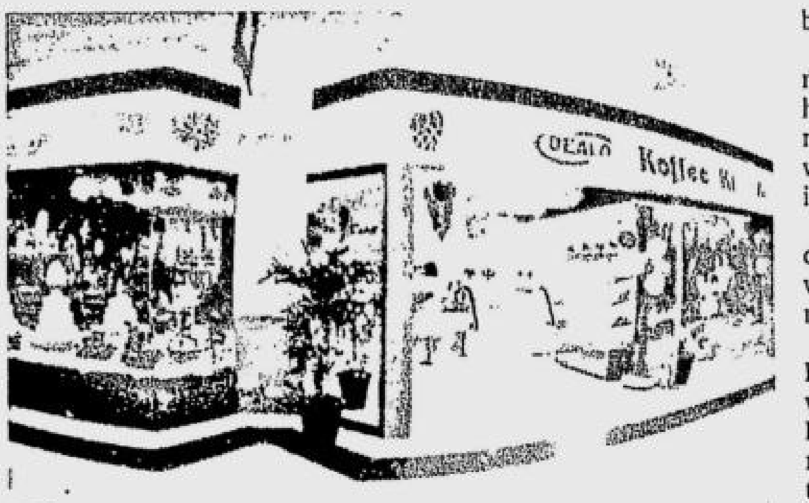
But the daughter was not destined to simply inherit the management of the family business.

Upon the prodding of her siblings, Valde branched out to the more sophisticated but equally demanding field of cake and pastry baking.

"I went through six months of baking lessons in Cubao way back in 1968. Even when I was already starting a family of my own, I persevered just to learn the ropes of the trade," she recalls.

Immediately after her short baking course, she faithfully served her town mates with cakes for all occasions.

DEALO Industry workers in the '60s prepare assorted biscuits and cookies.



THE "PAHIYAS"-INSPIRED Dealo Koffee Klatch outlet in Metro Pacific Mall in Lucena City. PHOTOS BY DELFIN T. MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Two years later, she decided to go full time and adopted a catchy German name as her business tag—"Koffee Klatch."

"We modified some letters of the original German word to suit our local interpretation of the place. In German, it means a cozy place for conversation over a cup of coffee," she explained.

For the pioneer cake maker of Lucban, business is operated like a family affair.

"I treat my regular clients in my small cake business as members of the family. I maintain a list of their birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other important occasions. When they place their order, I already have new designs ready for their selection."

Branching out

Buoyed by the experience and her growing interest in her chosen field of business, Valde decided, against all odds, to branch out to the capital city of Lucena—with only P20,000 in her pocket—in 1986 in the midst of a politically turbulent period.

She rented a small space along Quezon Avenue for P1,500 a month. Her father helped her design the store, accented with her native town's Pahiyas Festival, on the condition that she would also sell Dealo products.

"Deep inside, I was afraid because I would now face big competitors, especially when my husband said the store should sell five cakes a day for us to break even," she recalls of those jittery moments.

Luckily for her, she sold 10 cakes on opening day.

Faced with brisk sales, she immediately ordered a big oven to cope with the huge demand.

"I had to be ready and acquire the best equipment for my trade just like the time when my father ordered his Winkler oven. Since I want first-class products for my clients, I also need to maintain first class tools and equipment," she explains.

Three years later, she expanded the store area and occupied the space of the adjacent restaurant that closed shop.

With only four staff members, Valde virtually makes the store her home. "I sleep in a folding bed in one corner of the store."

She said the fast pace of business transactions really caught her by surprise, not like the business atmosphere in Lucban where she can meet clients even in her house dress and slippers.

She said she was also bewildered by the way city citizens would use cakes to celebrate almost any occasion.

"Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and other occasions would pass by unnoticed by Lucbanins. Here it's different. We really have to sweat it out early in the morning just to produce the orders," Valde recalls.

Advertising

"I sell cakes not just for the sake of selling one. I share some valuable tips to my buyers, like the kind of cakes that suit their occasions. I also consider in the making of the cake, the travel time and the kind of transportation system. I want them to not only enjoy the taste of the cake but also feast on the beauty of the cake," she stresses.

With the professionalism that she shows in her chosen vocation, soon Koffee Klatch transformed itself into a busy social hub among students, professionals, office workers and even media people, where everybody can savor the different varieties of cakes, pastries, pasta and native food for snacks, lunch and dinner, mostly Lucban dishes.

But the test of direct competition from an industry bigwig came when a Manila-based nationwide chain of cake stores opened a local branch in 1998.

"Those were more sleepless nights for me. The challenge posed by the newcomer forced me to lose some pounds thinking of my future in this business," she vividly recalls.

"But I survived the challenge with flying colors. My loyal customers remained my regular clients. In turn, my experience helped me foster my competitive spirit. It makes me more aggressive in my business decisions," Valde, who also sits as the incumbent president of the Quezon Bakers Association, says.

Other branches

Soon, Koffee Klatch opened other branches in the towns of Pagbilao, Candelaria, Tayabas and another one in front of the St. Ferdinand Cathedral in Lucena.

She admits that there were offers for her to join the trade biggies in Manila malls, but she declined for strategic reasons.

"It's better to be a queen here than just be a tail of an elephant in Manila," she says.

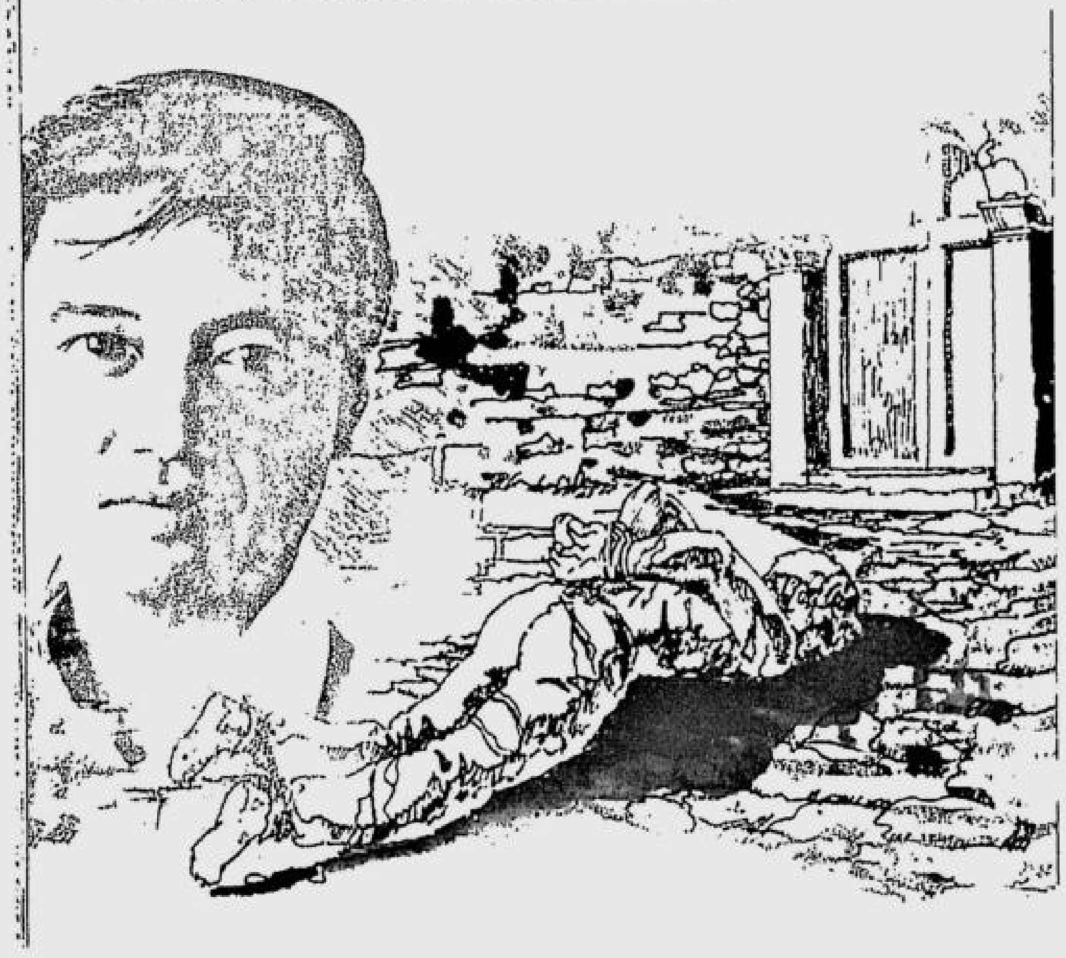
But the challenges posed by mall competitors could no longer be avoided when the giant Metro Pacific Mall of the Gaisano group and SM Lucena opened their local branches last year.

Left with no other recourse but to join the trend, Valde says she originally wanted to occupy a place in just one mall to prove her worth, but in a twist of fate, Koffee Klatch eventually landed in prime spaces in the two malls. "We just told ourselves, here it is. Anyway, we can easily back out if the need arises. But I just want to prove something, that even if I'm small but producing quality products, I could also make a great difference in patronage in mall competition," she says.

"My children are more daring. For them, now is the time for us to show that we can also be competitive in our products or else we will forever lag behind," Valde adds. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TONY Tan Caktiong, president of Jollibee Foods Corp., was recently named the first Entrepreneur Of The Year (EOY) Philippines. Tan Caktiong (extreme left) with other awardees: Pacita U. Juan, CEO of Figaro Coffee Inc.; Myla Villanueva, managing director of MDI Group of Companies, Doris Magsaysay Ho, chairperson/CEO of Magsaysay Maritime Corp. (Socially Responsible Entrepreneur) and Ernest Cu, director, president and CEO, SPI Technologies Inc.

ALVAREZ
KAKAMPI NG MGA API



Noong 1974, ang luray-luray na katawan ni Marsman Alvarez, kapatid ni Heherson, ay itinapon sa harap ng isang simbahan sa Isabela. Inukit ang kanyang mga mata. Dinurog ang kanyang bungo at panga. Binunot ang dila, ngipin at kuko. Sa libing ni Marsman, inatake sa puso at namatay din ang ama ni Alvarez. Ang kanyang ina at isa pang kapatid ay halos nasiraan ng bait. Ang walang awang pagpaslang ay kabayaran ng walang takot na paglaban ni Heherson Alvarez sa diktadurya at mga TRAPO na kasabwat sa paggahasa ng bayan.

33 TAON NG PANININDIGAN SA PRINSIPYO.

KAKAMPI NG KALAYAAN
- Isa sa 10 Outstanding Con-Con Delegates, 1971; Isa sa hindi pumirma sa Marcos constitution.
- Kontra Marcos: Namuno ng Ninoy Aquino Movement na nagbunyag ng nakaw na yaman at walang tigil na tumutol sa US aid sa diktadurya.
- Pinarangalan ng United Nations Day Human Rights Award ng Fund for Free Expression, New York.

MAKATAONG MAMBABATAS
Bilang Senador ng 12 taon:
- Ama ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform at Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- Panday ng Nursing Act, National Commission on Culture and the Arts at Department of Energy, at ang Eid'l Fitri para sa mga kapatid na muslim.
- Utak ng Clean Air Act, Integrated Protected Areas System at Solid Waste Management.
- Sponsor ng ratification ng ILO convention Rights of Migrant Workers at Indigenous Peoples.

Bilang Kongresista:
- Isinulong ang IMPEACHMENT laban kay ERAP.
- Sponsor ng mga batas para sa kababaihan, kabataan at may kapansanan.

KAKAMPI NG KALIKASAN
Bilang DENR Secretary:
- Tagapagtanggol ng maliliit na mga minero ng Mt. Diwalwal, mangingisda sa ilalim ng DAO17 at mga Bilaan ng Maguindanao upang isauli ang lupa ng kanilang ninuno.
- Inusig ang mga illegal loggers at mga makapangyarihang partido sa kontrobersyal na importasyon ng ozone depleting substance at hazardous waste.
- Nagpatupad ng programa para sa malinis na tubig at malawak na reforestation tugon sa panganib ng climate change.

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Barangays work their way up from poverty

OUT THERE, in a coastal barangay of the lake town of Jabonga in Agusan del Norte, a dream has been realized. The barangay residents called this dream, the San Vicente Marketing center.

A project of the community funded by the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services: Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay (Kalahi-CIDSS:KKB) project of the DSWD, it aims to decrease the poor economic condition of the community by reducing the time, energy and resources usually spent by the people in buying their basic commodities.

San Vicente is one of Jabonga's farthest barangays. Located at the small coastal valley at the boundary of Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte, it faces the gigantic Pacific Ocean.

Celerina Robas, 51 years old, the store purchaser, said buying their basic commodities is inconvenient. They still have to go to Cabadbaran, a neighboring town of Jabonga where the center of trade and commerce is located. It is about 58 km from San Vicente. Going to Cabadbaran for this purpose takes a whole day and costs a family about P150 to P300.

Those who do not have enough money to buy in bulk are left with no choice but to buy from the retail stores within San Vicente and from nearby barangays that sell goods at a high price—almost double compared to the prevailing market price.

Today, the marketing center stands proudly at the heart of Barangay San Vicente.

It caters to the barangay residents as an alternative store that offers a much lower-priced commodities compared to other retail stores in the community, said Virgie Tragua, store manager.

She said the marketing center sells a can of sardines at P8 and a kilo of rice at P17 while other retail stores sell it at P10 and P20, resepctively.

Looking back, the volunteers recalled with pride the tedious process they went through in achieving their dream—the barangay assemblies, the seminars on community volunteerism, project development, KC infrastructure, procurement, finance, operation and maintenance.

These activities, expressed Tragua, have prepared them to face the challenges in the project implementation.

"Pahina System" is the people's contribution in the implementation of the project. Members of the community set a day as their voluntary workday.

The paid laborers have given a portion of their pay. Instead of taking the P120 in full, they would only get the P100; giving the P20 as counterpart to the project.

During the construction of the marketing center, there has been a time when they ran out of gravel while doing masonry works. The situation could have been a reason for the men to discontinue their work.

But the women who worked with them have volunteered to get gravel from the shore.

Laboriously and patiently, they hauled gravel from the shore using the "balsahan"—a makeshift wooden wagon without wheels and pulled by a carabao.

These women volunteers of San Vicente concretely exemplify women as a force to reckon with when it comes to community development.

The women whose worlds go beyond the kitchen and the garden as one would expect them to be in.

Also, there have been times when payments for the labor would be delayed. But this situation, however, did not dampen the spirits of the barangay residents.

Armed with strong determination to pursue the project, each volunteer would go to the project site bringing a cup of rice and whatever little they have for viand and pulled it together.

Barangay Captain Segundino Beluan said, "Kalahi-CIDSS is a good project because it has recognized the ordinary people as key players in implementing a project.

The barangay officials of San Vicente have been with the people but only to provide them the support they would need such as the local counterpart and the lot where the marketing center is located."

The way to progress is rarely smooth and easy, but the important thing is, people learn from every fall.

The implementation of the project has strengthened the bonding among the residents. The men and women in the community contributed so much for the success of the project.

The San Vicente Marketing Center is a manifestation that any undertaking, if given significant amount of hard work and commitment, is really bound to succeed.

Ayala Land welcomes . . .

From page B1

hard at different individuals and looked at a lot of qualifications. We asked ourselves should it be within a certain age bracket? But finally we decided to look at who can give the company a good run in the next 15 years," Zobel says.

The search finally ended with Ayala, who joined the company in January this year as executive vice president and member of the management committee. He will have six months to get his feet wet in the company before he takes over as president.

Aside from his credentials, Zobel says what clinched him the post was his exposure to a broad range of industries over his long years in McKinsey and Co. that is expected to allow him to take Ayala Land through the growth challenges over the long term.

In his career in Asia, he has counseled clients involved in industries such as retail, tourism, real estate, energy, banking, telecommunications, consumer goods, basic industries and transportation.

"Aside from his academic excellence, he had the chance to look at a whole range of industries. He knows their growth problems and he comes in with a view of a lot of things. This will be very useful for Ayala Land," explains Zobel.

The high expectations are daunting but Ayala is grateful that the transition team headed by Licuanan has been very generous in sharing their time and expertise to keep him abreast of the issues facing the company.

Zobel says the public can expect no major change in the company as it will continue to be a conservative real estate company grounded on providing quality for money.

Ayala says his personal challenge is to step up coordination between the different groups as the company grows even bigger.

"As we grow bigger there will be some changes in coordination. We already moved into having strategic business units because there are a lot of synergies within the company," he says.

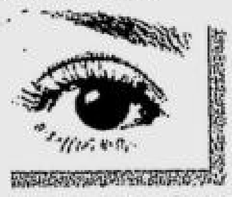
Heading a company the size of ALI is taking up more of his time than when he was in McKinsey but thanks to e-mail and the wonders of technology, he gets a lot of work done within a day.

This leaves him with enough time to continue playing leadership roles in civic organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund and Habitat for Humanity.

"At the end of the day, I believe that work is a vehicle for us to express ourselves, a way for us to be more productive. And here, I think work is not just work and that is one of the things I liked about this company," he says.

He could have easily had perhaps a more profitable career abroad but Ayala says that he has always been on the lookout for a position that will keep him in the Philippines.

"My heart is here," he says.



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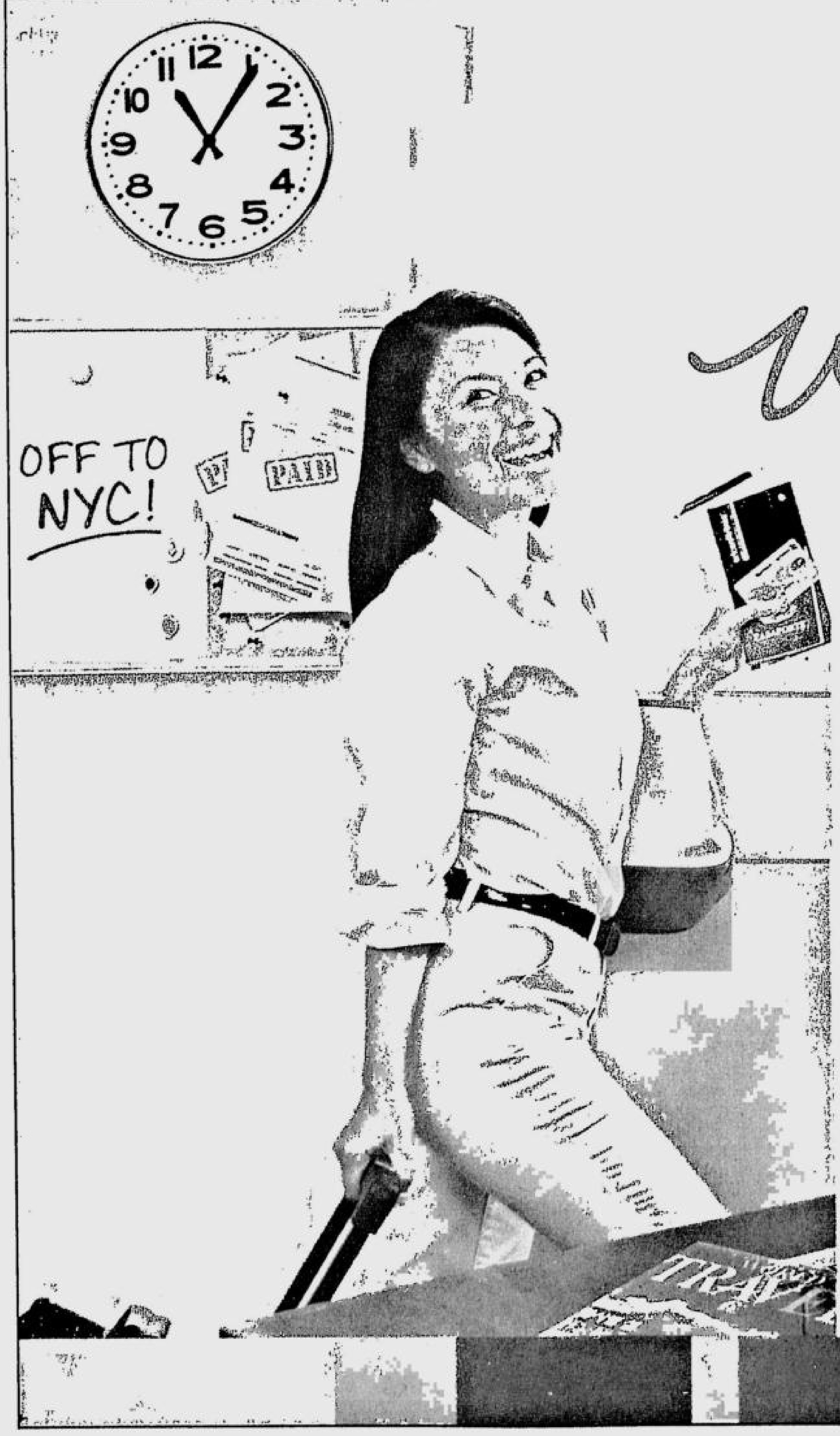

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0266 Series of 2004.

'Tingi' scheme finds way in Internet market

THE CONCEPT of "tingi" or selling a small amount or quantity to target a defined set of users (budget conscious) and situations (for emergency) has found its way into the pre-paid Internet card market.

Blast, one of the fastest selling Internet pre-paid cards in the market, has introduced a new and convenient way to get pre-paid Internet load via short messaging system (SMS) or text.

Internet users can download two surfing hours for only P20 by sending BLAST to 2366 from any Globe or Touch Mobile handsets and they will immediately receive their Blast user name and password, dial-up access number and help desk number.

The service was made possible in collaboration with PinoyCentral, an ABS-CBN subsidiary.

The user name and passwords for Blast Text can only be used for Metro Manila initially.

"By being first to introduce to the market the Internet load via text, Blast reaffirms its position as a leader and innovator in the Internet services market. With our best in value offer of P100 for 12 hours of uninterrupted, hassle free surfing, we are confident that this new service will attract more users into our fold," said Rodrigo Montinola, BayanTel vice president for residential markets.

Blast is now available in more than 2,000 outlets in Metro Manila, and last year sold over 1 million cards.

Montinola promised that the young students and professionals that comprise majority of the Blast target market, should expect more innovative service and promotions during the year.

Bank ties up for Web-based fund transfer

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has teamed up with US based Xoom Corp. to provide the newest and fastest Web-based fund transfer service available in the market, allowing non-resident Filipinos worldwide to send their money home instantly and securely via the website of the San Francisco, California company—www.xoom.com.

Through the service, money can be delivered to recipients instantly, or made available for pick up in any of the more than 400 EPCIBank branches nationwide. Beneficiaries do not need a bank account or Internet connection to receive funds. Recipients can get the cash over the counter at any EPCIBank branch. The service also includes door-to-door delivery and direct deposit to EPCIBank account options.

All money transfers with Xoom are processed through trusted payment leader, PayPal, an eBay company. PayPal, which processes over $30 million in payments everyday, offers ease and flexibility, accepting all major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express) as well as all major debit cards for payment.

"We are proud to offer this service to the global Filipino community," said EPCIBank executive vice president and retail banking group head Dennis B. Velasquez. "This will give Filipinos living abroad a faster, more convenient, and secure way to send money home."

"The tie-up will extend Equitable PCI Bank's reach as a leading money transfer service for overseas Filipinos and place the bank in a position to capture a bigger share of OFW remittances," said EPCIBank first vice president and remittance head Richard S. So.

Pinoy does well abroad, aims to reach heights in RP, too

CAILAO

ANTONIO M. Cailao, Filipino expatriate and former Citibank executive, has finally come home.

He first left Manila in 1984 to head Citibank's regional trading group in Hong Kong. After almost two decades, he returned last September when he accepted the post of chief operating officer at UCPB.

He now joins other ex-Citibankers working for the bank in senior management and in the board of directors. These include Jose L. Querubin, Norberto Nazareno and chair Deogracias Vistan.

"I couldn't resist the challenge of turning around such a well-known banking franchise so I decided to return," said the erstwhile Singapore-based executive, who reported for his first day of work straight from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Cailao said it was his fellow ex-Citibanker and now UCPB president and CEO Jose L. Querubin who lured him out of Singapore.

"Jojo and I go back a long way since we had worked together in Citibank. We have been in touch since and crossed paths again in Singapore when I was Citibank's Asia region head for corporate there and he was Bank of America's region head for transaction banking. Jojo is very capable; I know him to be very sharp and a visionary. And the moment he outlined his turnaround plan for UCPB and the role he wants me to play in it, I jumped at the offer!"

"As COO, I will manage the good bank, which has the chief responsibility of rebuilding and expanding the bank's business franchise and that means acquiring customers, rolling out new products, broadening relationship and generating revenues. That's where I am in my element," said Cailao, a recipient for five consecutive years of Citibank's Global Account Management Award, which is conferred to bank officers directly involved in increasing revenues from customers. He is also the first Asian to receive the Chairman's Club award which he received twice. This highly coveted award is handed out personally by Citibank's chair in a special ceremony at the bank's New York headquarters to the top 15 of the bank's more than 260,000 employees.

Cailao has been a banker for 30 years and he spent 28 years in Citibank, mostly in the bank's offices abroad. He joined Citibank as an executive management trainee in 1973.

Cailao did his undergraduate, BS Business Administration and MBA studies in the University of the Philippines. He also attended the Executive Management Program of Columbia University in New York.

For nearly two decades, Cailao, who grew up in the verdant UP Diliman campus, traveled from one part of the globe to the other, building and expanding business franchises for Citibank.

In Hong Kong, he spearheaded trade initiatives for Citibank, including the bank's initial major attempts to provide novel inter-country, computer-initiated trade transactions.

Reassigned to South Korea two years later to head the local corporate banking group in Seoul, he quickly organized a team to handle Korean multinationals and doubled the group's revenues after only a year.

Buoyed by his success, he took on a bigger assignment of organizing a local franchise of the world corporation group, the Citibank units that caters to the top foreign multinationals. Within four years, the WGC-Seoul posted a tenfold increase in revenues, became the market leader with a 30-percent share, and was judged the best WGC team in Asia.

Cailao left Korea in 1991 to head Citibank's multinational business in Caracas, Valenzuela. Arriving at a time when the country was experiencing severe recession, he immediately revamped the local marketing unit, installed an organizational structure and account management process, and in two year's doubled revenues, elevating Citibank to market leadership.

When the US lifted its nearly three decade-long trade embargo on Vietnam, Citibank tapped him to restart operations there. He set up offices in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, recruited and trained people, developed and implemented marketing and credit plans and did road shows in the US, Japan and the UK to attract investors. On its second year, Citibank-Vietnam broke even, and on its third year, showed a profit.

With the Vietnam operation on course, and the Asian financial crisis unfolding, Citibank pulled Cailao out again and made him Asia region head for Pan Asian Corporations. He restarted, expanded and managed the bank' s relationship with corporations from 12 South and North Asian countries that were doing overseas business; organized country units to manage the parent and subsidiary relationships; and institutionalized marketing processes across the region. In less than a year, he tripled revenues.

Recognizing his unique abilities, Fleet National Bank lured him out of Citibank in mid-2001 with a bigger challenge—to roll out an e-bank platform and a commercial banking business for the bank's fledgling Asian operation.

FNB is the principal banking subsidiary of FleetBoston Financial Corp., the seventh biggest financial holding company in the US. It was on this same year that UP recognized him as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Alumni of the College of Business Administration.

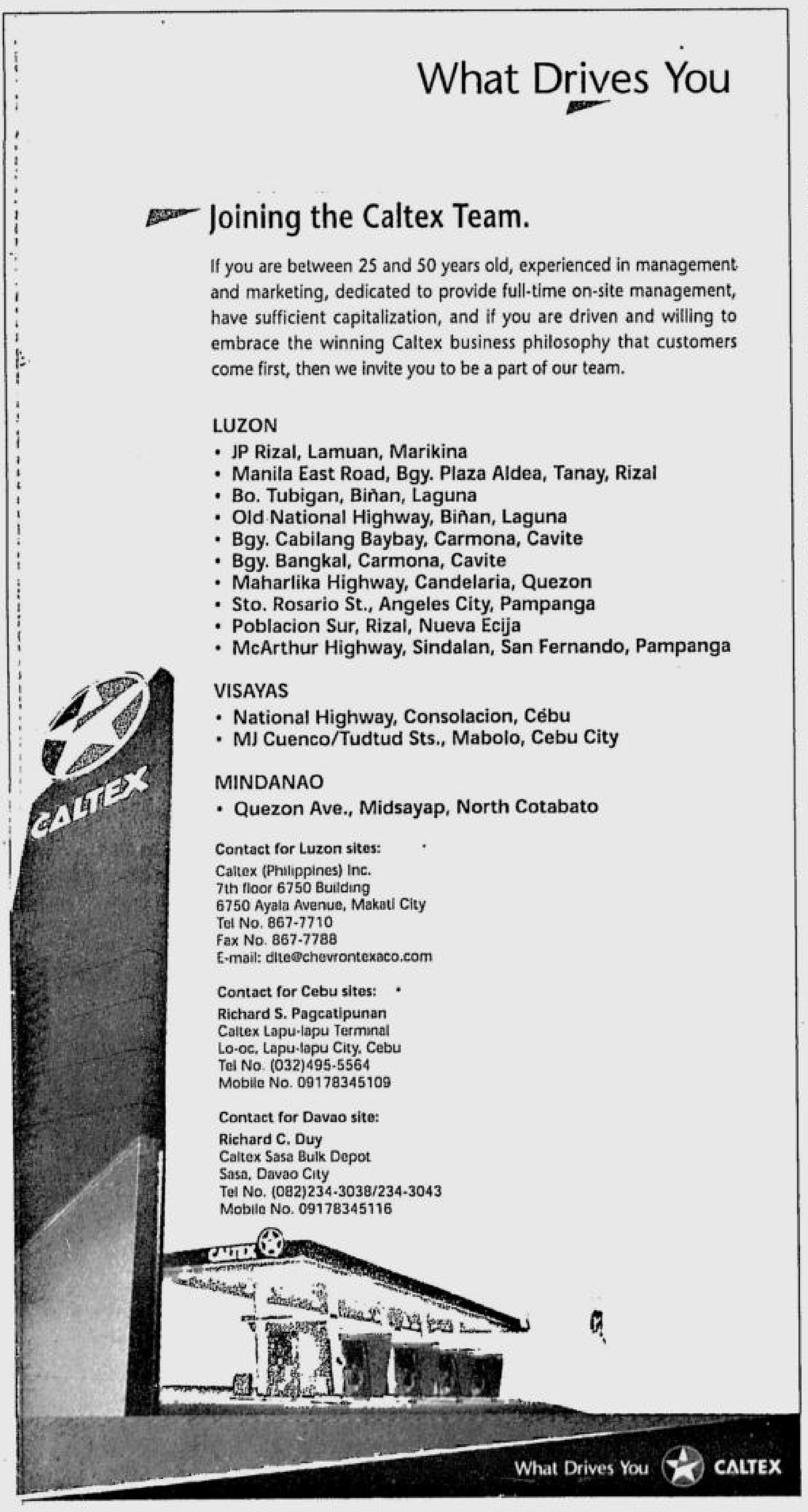
The son of a UP professor, Cailao attributes much of his success to an innate ability to spot talents, mentor them and weld them into an effective team.

"I take risks in talents. I'm a strong advocate of letting a thousand flowers bloom," he said paraphrasing a famous line of the late Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung. A voracious reader with a professed liking for the arts, science and history, Cailao would often spice up his talks with quotes from historical or literary figures to emphasize a point.

Colleagues describe Cailao as a take-charge guy whose enthusiasm and energy rub off on everybody. "Even during his student days, Tony already has this uncanny knack to create excitement, which draws people to him and which makes him an effective organizer."

During his term as president of his college in UP, Cailao founded a leading international exchange student program organization, AIESEC, in the Philippines.

Cailao's dynamic and mentoring style of leadership would surely be tailor-fit for UCPB, which is faced with the task and the promise of resurgence.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What Drives You CALTEX

Doc's hobby lights up big candle firm

From page B1

"We registered the business in 1997 as Doc's Candles, because I was a doctor first before I fell in love with candles."

Exhibits

In 1998, when Doc's Candles joined the bazaar held at the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) in Roxas Boulevard, she got a small booth easily noticed by people who wanted to go to the comfort room.

"Before the opening day at the Citem bazaar, an American businessman saw another man holding a candle he bought from our booth. He asked the man where the candle came from, and he bought 10,000 candles. So, before the exhibit formally opened, we already sold out our candles and we had orders from the United States," Morten said.

Then the orders from Denmark, Sweden and other European countries started coming in.

"When we joined a trade fair in Denmark in 1999, and you know, Denmark is known for the best candles in the world, we got orders from Sweden and Norway," Morten says.

That same year, they started the export business to Kuwait and Japan.

Candles

Doc's Candles used to sell only solid candles. Two years ago, it developed the stained glass, hurricane and wax lantern candles.

Marichu says Doc's Candles are 100-percent hand-molded, hand-dipped, and hand-carved. No machines are used in the process.

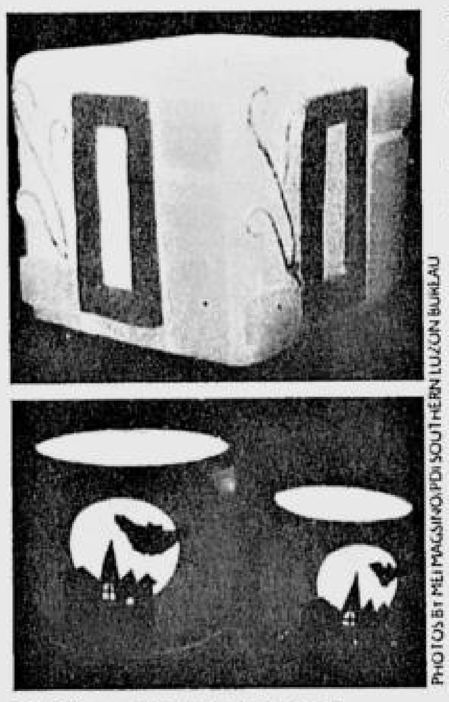
Doc's Candles' bestsellers include hurricane candles that work as a candleholder. Inserting a tea light inside the candle would illuminate the various colors of the hurricane candle.

Morten says their regular clients who order small hurricane candles by the thousands are the pharmaceutical companies that use their candles as giveaways or gifts for all occasions.

Moving a step ahead of hurricane candles, the couple developed wax lanterns.

Free ad

The couple didn't have to advertise, as word-of-mouth traveled fast, especially among impulse-buyers who brought the product to different places.


PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DOC's candles light up homes outside the Philippines

By the end of 2000, both Morten and Marichu decided to quit their jobs and concentrated on the candle business.

"For three and a half years now, we have been on full-blast operation. Our candle shop in Greenbelt, our first store, is now three years old. The rest of the 12 franchises in big malls in key cities all over the country were put up in just one year," Morten said.

Doc's Candles' store at the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza in Makati City was soon followed by branches in SM Megamall in Ortigas, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City, SM Southmall, in Las Piñas, SM Pampanga, SM Davao, SM Lucena, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Place, Lipa City, Gaisano Mall in Davao city, and Ayala Center in Cebu City.

Morten said they would open franchises in May 2004 at the SM Cebu, Ground, SM Bicutan, and Festival Mall in Alabang.

Growth

The kitchen-cum-factory in their house in Barangay Inosluban, which started in 1999, grew by more than tenfold.

The two helpers, who originally assisted Marichu when she started candle making, are still with them, along with 60 more regular employees. They also have two full-time sales officers in Manila and two managers based in Quezon City.

One way to beat the imported candles, according to Morten, is to expand and export.

"When we exported our candles, and Filipinos abroad saw that the Doc's Candles products came from the Philippines, they were impressed that when they came here, they and their families looked for the candle with our logo," Morten says.

But imitators would still come to their shops, trying to copy their designs.

"To kill the copycats, put up as many stores as you can and as fast as possible nationwide, so the people will know who the original really is. Then sell the franchise," Morten says.

Morten says they don't conduct training seminars on candle making.

"Sorry we don't teach or create our competitors. If we teach people how to make our candles, pretty soon, we'll be out of business," Morten says, "this is serious business."

Romantic affair

Morten reveals that sometimes, they even have to work for a straight 35 hours without sleep just to fill in the orders. Where does the couple get the energy?

"Up to now, it's still a romantic affair for both of us. We love doing the business. And when you're doing what you love to do, it's not a job at all, it's fulfilling a longtime dream," Marichu says.

She reveals that the secret to their growing franchise is that they only choose franchisees that are also in love with candles.

"Our wish for Doc's Candles is to be the world's best candle-maker and designer," Marichu says.

"We're the first candle chain in the country in terms of outlets, and we're the biggest retailer," Morten claims.

He discloses that they will be opening four more franchises in the country in the next four months.

During the last week on March, two more franchises were opened in Kuala Lumpur. The international franchise will be the first Filipino candle outlet overseas. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Growing pains of Brasilia sound like Manila's woes

BRASILIA, Brazil—Maria Dias da Silva's dreams of a job, a house and safety in Brazil's futuristic capital, Brasilia, lie stuck in the red mud of its largest slum.

She lives beyond the city's modernist government ministries and middle-class suburbs in what locals call the "ring of misery," the slums and poor towns that surround Brasilia.

Founded 43 years ago to populate Brazil's vast savanna interior, Brasilia is now the country's fastest growing city.

As poor Brazilian immigrants flood the region, the city—hobbled by Brazil's stagnant economy—cannot create enough jobs. The gulf separating rich and poor is growing wider than anywhere else in Brazil, which has the most unequal distribution of wealth in Latin America. Violence is on the rise in a city once considered so safe some locals didn't lock their cars until the 1990s.

"There are more people arriving everyday," said Dias da Silva, 30, crouching in a cheap brick home in the slum known as Itapua. The roof in her home leaks and the toilet drains into a trash-filled lake.

She is too scared to get a job and leave her home unattended for fear squatters will move in. She has been afraid to go out at night since a gang shooting claimed five lives.

Long known as "fantasy island" for its bubble of wealth and safety in a poor nation, the metropolitan area called the Brasilia Federal District now suffers higher per capita rates of unemployment and kidnapping than Rio de Janeiro, the coastal city it replaced as Brazil's capital.

Like planned cities around the world, it is struggling as it develops beyond the size its founders believed could create an urban utopia for administrators and politicians. It is now beginning to experience the troubles of most big Brazilian cities—growing slums on its edges and the crime and other challenges that come with them.

Pressure cooker

Brasilia's middle classes were long isolated from crime that took place in planned, working-class "satellite" cities where many of their servants live.

Unemployment of over 20 percent and the growth of slums near the city center, has pushed violence into downtown Brasilia.

Most of the Federal District's "lightening kidnaps"—so-called because of the habit of holding victims only during the time it takes to bring them to bank machines and force them to withdraw cash—now take place in the heart of the city.

"We have a pressure cooker in Brasilia and our egotistical elite doesn't see this," said businessman and community activist Nikolaus Von Behr.

His home in the wealthy Lago Norte suburb is one of the few left without a high metal fence and guard dogs.

Brasilia was built in three years and meant to have 500,000 people by 2000. The population of the Federal District has grown about 50 percent since 1990 and is set to hit 2.3 million next year.

The city is surrounded by poor northeastern states where manual labor and domestic jobs can pay less than a dollar a day. Poor immigrants are lured to Brasilia's average monthly income of 1,047 reals ($361), which is the highest in Brazil and over five times that of nearby Maranhao state.

Promises from Federal District Gov. Joaquim Roriz to build homes for the poor are another attraction.

'Too many people'

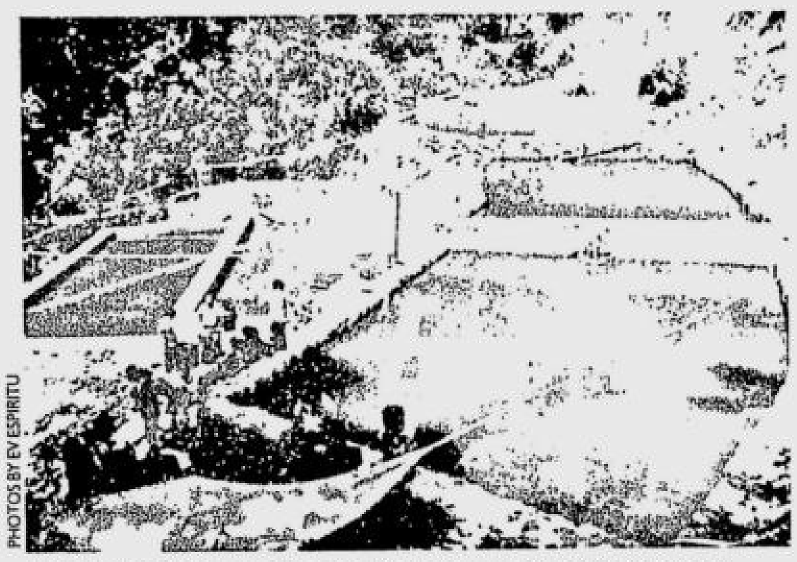
"Just as with any city, from a certain moment onwards, it deteriorates. It's too many people, and there it goes," Oscar Niemeyer, the city's architect said in an interview.

The population of Itapua has doubled to 50,000 in the last two years.

Residents live four miles from Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's palace. The former metalworker was elected on vows to create jobs and shrink Brazil's wealth inequalities. He is struggling to do either after the economy contracted 0.2 percent last year.

His palace overlooks communities that segregate rich and poor, in what critics call Brazil's "social apartheid." Itapua is wedged between Brasilia's wealthiest suburbs Lago Sul and Lago Norte. Home to diplomats and ministers, Lago Sul enjoys living standards similar to Scandinavia, based on city research using the United Nations human development index.

The poorest satellite cities, which are far more developed than Itapua, have living standards similar to Thailand, based on the UN index that measures indicators such as health and education. *Reuters*



PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

A LANDSCAPE view of the first fish terraces along Kennon Road.

ONE-LEGGED William Lapaan built the first fish terraces.

One-legged Sagada . . .

From page B14

Building fish terraces was not a mean feat, he said, when he was asked to help design the structures last year. Lapaan said he relied on his parents' stories about Mountain Province terraces, and not the more popular Ifugao terraces, when he carved out the terraces from a mountain overlooking their house.

But except for his obsession with ladders, Lapaan has no training nor understanding of the fish trade.

Government nutritionists pointed out that the Cordillera's average diet does not include fish, which is imported from the coastal towns of Pangasinan and La Union.

Herminia said she used to buy every kind of fish from the Baguio market to enrich her children's diet, "but they were too expensive."

Lapaan himself said he was not particularly fond of fish.

Sarmiento said BFAR had intended to test its cold-tolerant tilapia on the rice terraces of Banaue, Mayoyao, Hungduan and Kiangan, but discovered that farmers there are dwindling in number.

He said it seemed feasible for the government to help raise new terraces outside Ifugao and Mountain Province.

Rosalio Goze, a consultant of the Agno River Basin Commission, said Baguio's run-off water system is underutilized and can supply a fish terraces industry.

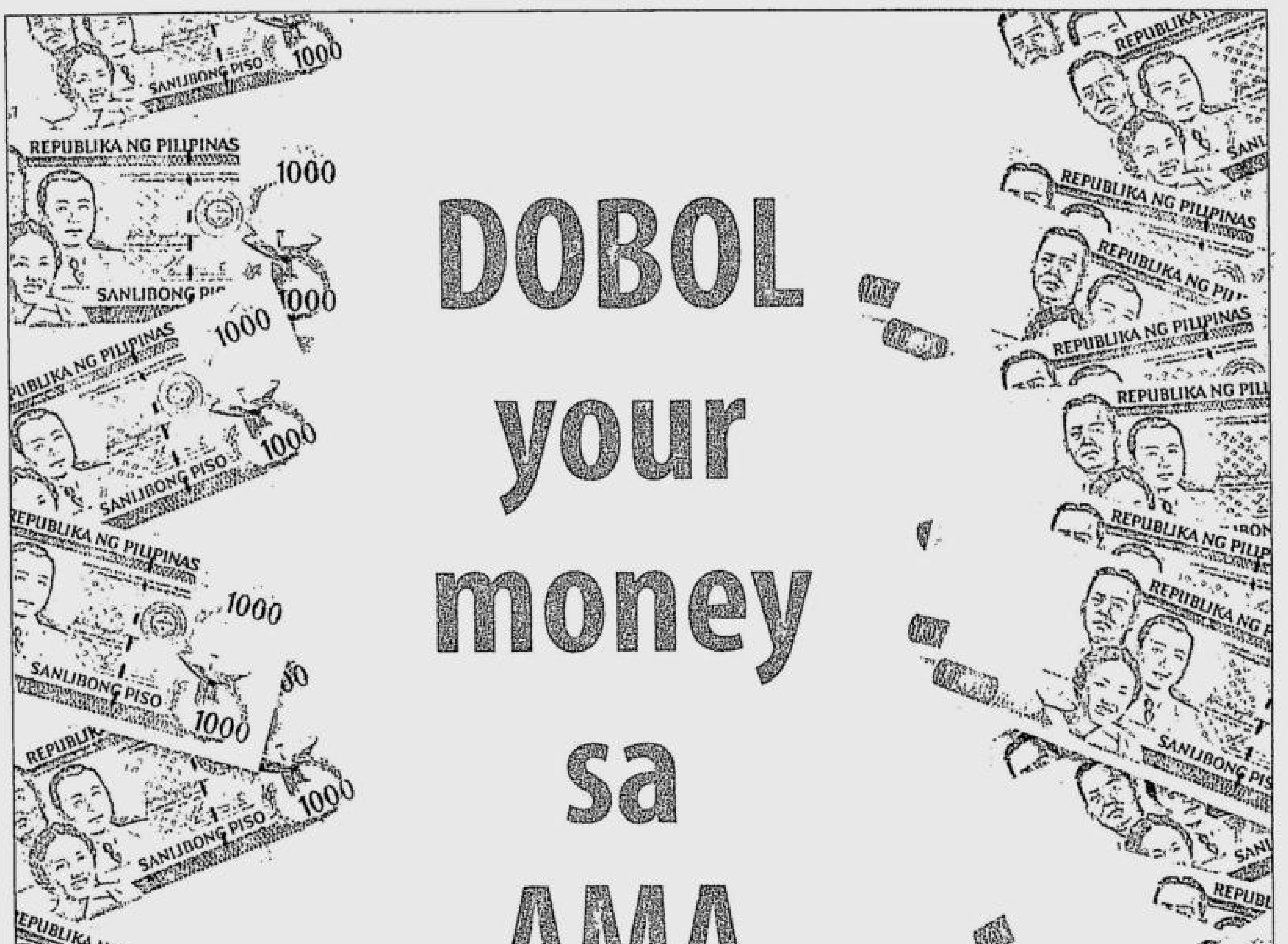
"Baguio has three chief run-off tributaries—Bued, Balili and Gallego rivers—whose waters can be impounded for the industry. The upland fishermen should only make sure that they are not catching surface run-off water streaming down from the populated areas of Baguio, because the city still has no good solid waste management program," he said.

Sarmiento said Baguio-based fish terraces could breed Munoz's tilapia hybrids, imported Australian perch or freshwater shrimps. The perch alone could be sold to the local market at P250 a kilogram, he said.

Lapaan said the project has its inherent risks. He said the CLSU requires him to feed the fish with a more expensive brand of fishfood to guarantee a large harvest.

But for a P200,000 venture, Lapaan said his fish terraces appeared to have inspired many other upland traders to develop their own terraces. A larger fish terrace now exists in Itogon, Benguet, which is run by the community.

Lorenzo promised to invest P700,000 there.



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Magtatrabaho ka sa ibang bansa?

Iba na kung Dokumentado!

Ang Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, isa nang organisasyong ISO-certified, ang ahensya na nagpoproseso ng dokumento ng mga manggagawang magtatrabaho sa ibang bansa; nagtatalaga ng mga kaukulang gastusin sa pagpoproseso; at tumutulong sa pag-aayos ng kontrata ng mga manggagawa at employers. Ito ang nagtataguyod sa kapakanan ng mga OFWs at kanilang pamilya laban sa mga tiwaling recruitment agencies at abusadong employers. Ito ang nangangalap ng mga trabaho para sa mga manggagawang Pilipino.

Mga programa at serbisyo

e-Contract for OFW
Sa ngayon, 5 minuto na lang ang e-contract submission.

Ang iba pang serbisyong pinabilis kung kumpleto ang dokumento:

- **Re-hire** (mga OFW na nagbabakasyon o Balik-Manggagawa). Tagal ng proseso: 1 oras; Bayarin: Processing fee, PhP 100.
- **Name Hire** (mga OFW na hindi dumaan sa isang recruitment agency). Tagal ng proseso: 2-3 oras; Bayarin: Processing fee, US$100.
- **Agency Hire** (mga OFW na dumaan sa isang recruitment agency). Tagal ng proseso: 4 oras; Bayarin: Processing fee, PhP200.

Ang mga bayarin para sa *"special insurance coverage"* (katulad sa Iraq at ibang war zones) ay sagutin ng employer o principal.

Habang inaayos ang dokumentasyon, maaari ding bayaran na sa POEA ang halagang US$25 na membership fee sa OWWA at P900 na kontribusyon sa Medicare.

NAGSASAGAWA ng Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar ang POEA sa mga manggagawa na magtutungo sa abroad upang bigyan sila ng kaalaman tungkol sa mga lugar na kanilang pupuntahan.

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MAAARI na ring makipag-ugnay sa POEA sa pamamagitan ng pagti-text sa cellphone. Ang TEXT POEA ay isa sa mga pinakabagong proyekto ng ahensya para sa mga OFW at mga nagpaplanong mag-abroad.

SIGNING
PATROL 117
ILLEGAL
BETWEEN
LUMALAGDA sina DOLE Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas at DILG Secretary Joey Lina sa isang Memorandum of Agreement para sa proyektong Dial 117 na higit na magpapalakas sa kampanya laban sa illegal recruitment.

MABILIS at de-kalidad na serbisyo ang hatid ng POEA.

the Kabuhayan 2003 ACT10
PRIL 5 - JUNE 10, 2003 10:00 A.M.
SM
AKTIBO ring nakikibahagi ang POEA sa mga job fair na inilulunsad ng DOLE tulad ng Kabuhayan 2003 kung saan nagkaroon din ng President's Summer Jobs Program noong isang taon.

BEWARE OF FIXERS
FIND A JOB ABROAD!
KUMBINYENTENG serbisyo para sa mga OFW ang hatid ng itinayong One Stop Center kung saan maaaring pagsilbihan ang mga OFW sa lahat ng kanilang pangangailangan.

OFW One-Stop Center
Ang dating Philippine Seafarers' One-Stop Center, na binubuo ng DFA, NBI, MARINA, NSO, TESDA, SSS, OWWA, PRC, NTC, MTC, PhilHealth, CHED, at POEA, ay nagsisilbi na ngayon sa pangangailangan ng kapwa sea- at land-based na OFW.

Anti-illegal recruitment program
Bunga ng pinaigting na kampanya laban sa illegal recruitment noong 2003:

- Pagkakapasara ng 29 ahensya;
- Pagkakaaresto ng 11 katao;
- Pamamahagi ng mga babala hinggil sa modus operandi ng mga illegal recruiter;
- Pakikipagkasundo sa DILG sa paggamit ng Dial 117; at
- Pakikipagkasundo sa 11 pamahalaang lokal.

Pagpapalawak ng merkado

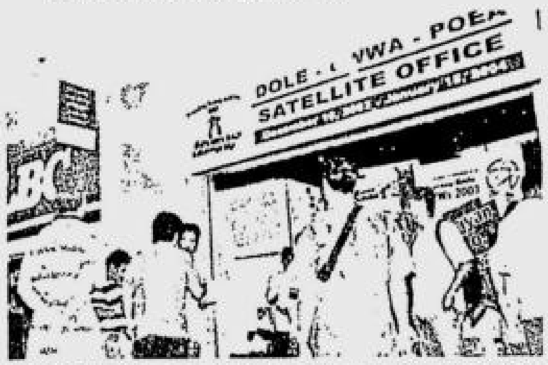
- Naipadalang OFW noong 2003: 867,969
- Kabuuang halaga ng remittance sa ekonomiya: $7.6 bilyon, pinakamalaki sa kasaysayan ng ekonomiya ng bansa.

24-Hour Hotline
Ang Information and Assistance Center ay:

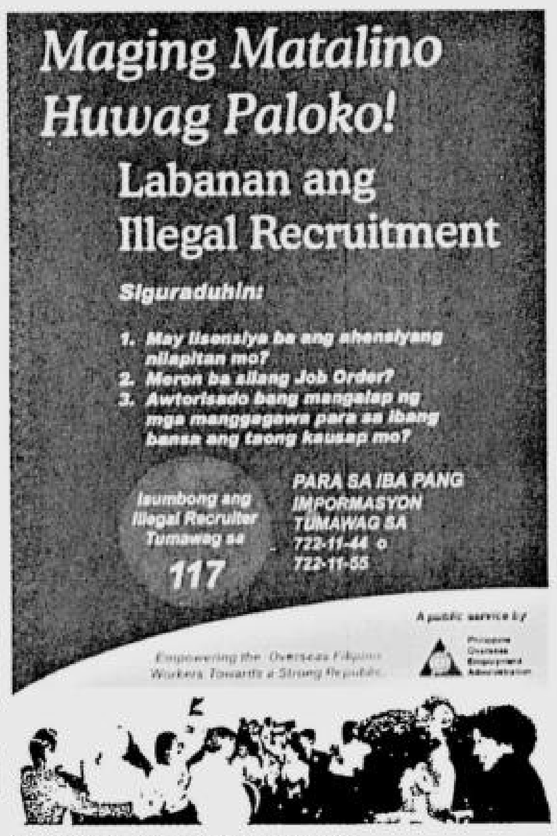
- Namamahagi ng kaalaman at payo ukol sa pag-aabroad, serbisyo at programa ng POEA, at lisensyadong ahensya.
- Tumatanggap ng sumbong laban sa illegal recruiter upang idulog sa Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch.
- Bukas 24 oras ang mga telepono na may bilang 722-1144 at 722-1155.

Iba pang mahalagang serbisyo

- Pagtutok sa mga trabahong government-to-government basis;
- Serbisyo ng verification upang masiguro na lahat ng job orders at kontrata ay lehitimo;
- Conciliation services;
- Advocacy: pakikipag-usap at paglalagda ng bilateral agreements.



SATELLITE office sa mall, bukas para sa mabilis na serbisyo.


Maging Matalino
Huwag Paloko!
Labanan ang
Illegal Recruitment

Siguraduhin:

1. May lisensiya ba ang ahensiyang nilapitan mo?
2. Meron ba silang Job Order?
3. Awtorisado bang mangalap ng mga manggagawa para sa ibang bansa ang taong kausap mo?

Isumbong ang Illegal Recruiter Tumawag sa 117

PARA SA IBA PANG IMPORMASYON TUMAWAG SA 722-11-44 o 722-11-55

A public service by
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
Empowering the Overseas Filipino Workers Towards a Strong Republic

INFO drive laban sa illegal recruiters.

Habambuhay, hatol sa 3 illegal recruiter

Bigo mang maisakatuparan ang pangarap na makapag-abroad, nakamit naman ng pitong biktima ng illegal recruitment ang hustisyang inaasam nang mahatulan ng habambuhay na pagkabilanggo ang tatlong illegal recruiter na luminlang sa kanila.

ILLEGAL recruiter hull.

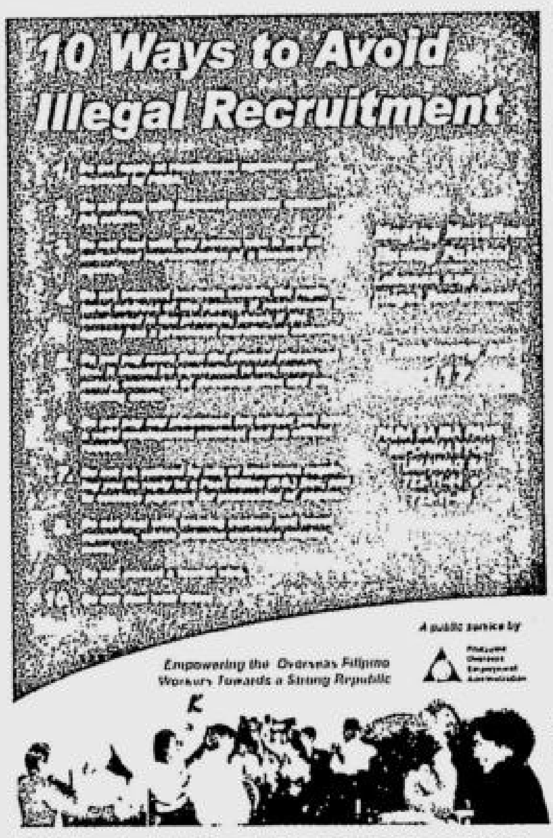
Sa desisyong ibinaba ni Judge Placido C. Marquez ng National Capital Judicial Region noong Hulyo 2003, sina Flordeliza I. Cipriano, alyas Flory Cipriano; Lita Cais-Loquero; at Nancy Leono ng FIC Travel & Tours ay nahatulan matapos mapatunayang nagkasala sa paglabag sa Republic Act 8042 o Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995.

Nag-ugat ang kaso sa reklamong inihain nina Luz Bornilla, Rizza Saulda, Virgie Almoroto, Nicanor Ocba, Aurora Maloles, Winifreda Maka at Helen Fos na pawang pinangakuan ng trabaho sa Hong Kong. Nabigo ang mga akusadong maisakatuparan ang nasabing pangako.

Nang maghain ng reklamo, agad namang tinulungan ng POEA ang mga biktima mula sa pagsasampa ng kaso hanggang sa tuluyang makamit ng mga ito ang hustisya.

Samantala, pinaigting pa ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) ang kampanya laban sa illegal recruitment at sa pagpapadala ng mga maggagawa sa mga mapanganib at mapang-abusong trabaho sa abroad.

Lumagda ang DOLE sa isang kasunduan sa Department of Interior and Local Government upang palakasin ang nabanggit na kampanya sa pamamagitan ng PATROL 117 emergency call system kung saan maaaring tumawag ang sinuman upang isuplong ang anumang gawaing illegal recruitment at human trafficking.


10 Ways to Avoid Illegal Recruitment
A public service by
Empowering the Overseas Filipino Workers Towards a Strong Republic
POSTER ng mga hakbang laban sa illegal recruitment.

> "Palagi kong sinasabi na ang proteksyon ng ating Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) sa buong mundo ay siyang may pinakamataas na prayoridad sa aking administrasyon. Bilang isa sa pinakamalaking nagtataguyod sa ating ekonomiya, nararapat at wasto lamang na pangalagaan at paunlarin pa ang inyong mga interes, at kayo'y nabibigyan ng sapat na proteksyon."
>
> **- Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**

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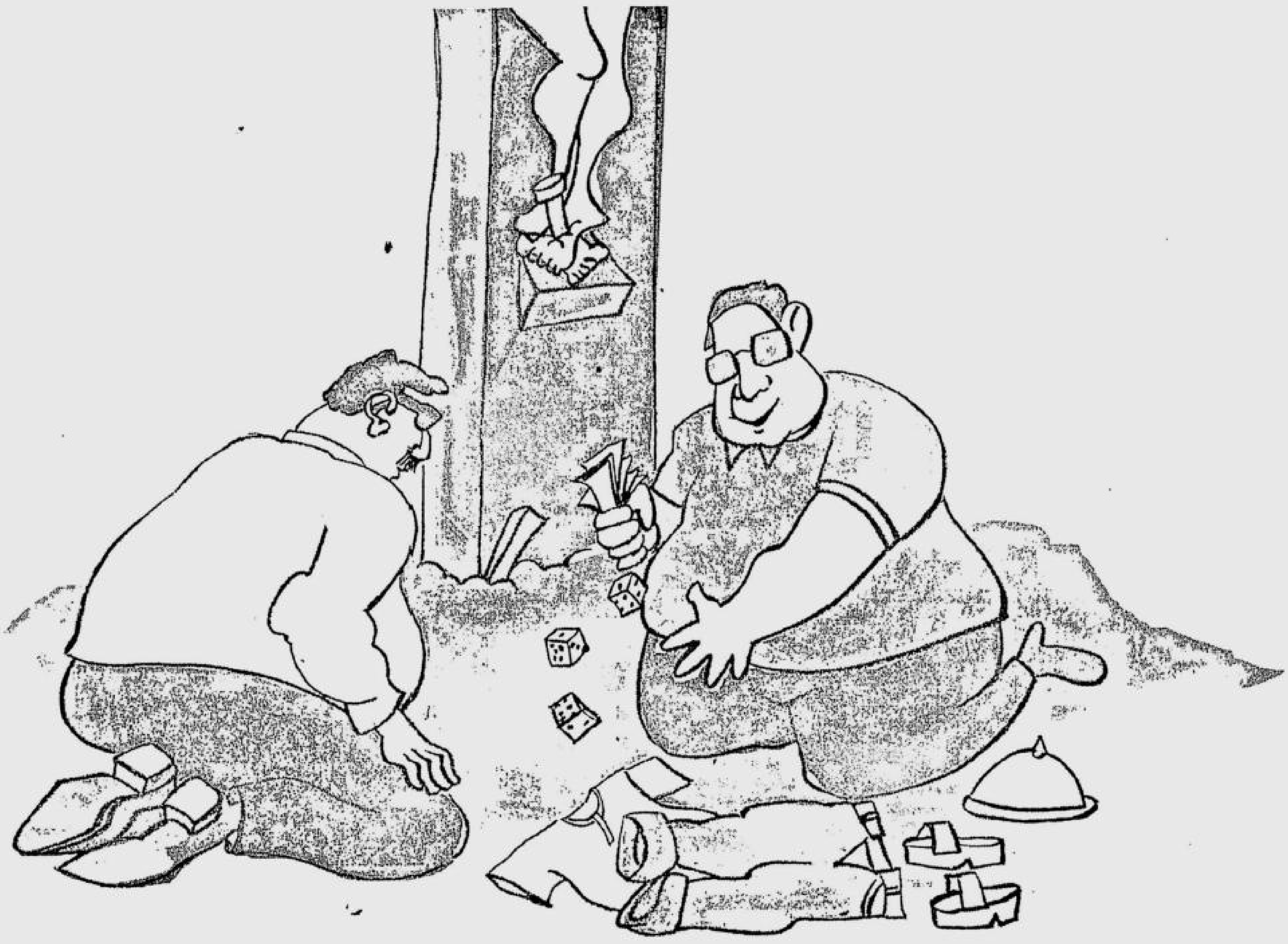
CORRUPTION SCANDALS: THE PASSION OF JUAN DE LA CRUZ

Station of the Cross on the Road to Perdition



Corruption in high places has been the hallmark of this Administration since it took over on the crest of what was thought to be an anti-corruption backlash in the previous administration. Back in the early days of the Administration, the people knew very little of what was to come — the spectacle of corruption being raised to new heights. Jose Pidal, the Road to Perdition, the Piatco-Fraport fiasco and the Impsa-Nani Perez-Mark Jimenez affair were just a few of the cases.

Long before Jose Pidal assaulted the consciousness of the Filipino people as the new household name in corruption, there was the Nani Perez caper. Only days after the Administration came to power, Perez, then the justice secretary of the fledgling administration, allegedly tried to extort money from Mark Jimenez. Jimenez said Perez received $2 million of the $14 million bribe for the approval of the contract of the Argentine firm Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona S.A. (IMPSA) for the rehabilitatyion of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydroelectric plant. The paper trail linked Perez and his friends to the Swiss account in Geneva which received the amount.

The official denied the allegation and Malacanang was quick to come to Perez's rescue. After a haphazard investigation, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission cleared Perez of any liability.

Then came the infamous Road to Perdition, a monument to corruption that defiled the memory of the late President Diosdado Macapagal. Overpriced by more than P500 million, the 5.1-kilometer asphalt stretch called the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard became, in the words of a columnist, "the most expensive road per linear meter in the world."

Then came the white elephant called the Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Fraport AG, the German company which was part of Piatco, the consortium that built the controversial airport terminal, alleged that the private lawyer of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had demanded "several tens of millions of US dollars" from the firm to facilitate the ouster from the consortium of the Cheng family.

Fraport made the accusation against Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, the main partner of what is now called "The Firm," in a letter to the World Bank's center for international arbitration. The Firm denied this and promptly sued the German company for libel. The Supreme Court, now loaded with Arroyo appointees, including former partners of the Firm, would later declare the Terminal 3 contract null and void, leaving the German company holding the bag.

Then came the P276 million "birthday gift" of the Light Railway Transit Authority to the President in 2003. The amount was supposed to be the additional cost of rushing the project in time for the President's birthday. In fact, it was the amount of the overprice for phase 1 of the LRT 2 project. A birthday gift to the President at the expense of the taxpayers.

And of course, how can we erase from our memory the lingering scandal of Jose Pidal?

As alleged by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Senate, the Jose Pidal accounts were the depository of dirty money from different dubious sources and transactions. Hundreds of millions of pesos found their way into several accounts under the name of Jose Pidal, through an accountant named Vicky Toh. Jose Pidal, according to Lacson, is none other than Mike Arroyo, the First Gentleman, and Vickly Toh his mistress.

The First Gentleman was quick to present his brother as the real Jose Pidal, but Ignacio Arroyo failed to produce proof that the accounts were his and that he earned the money. Pressed by the Senate, the President's brother-in-law invoked his right to privacy.

As a matter of fact, it was another Malacanang attempt to sweep under the rug the corruption that has become the hallmark of the Arroyo presidency.

This is the cross that Juan de la Cruz must bear.

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L A 200 sqm
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L A 1 077 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price P8 077,000 00

UCPB 4 - RSDL LOT
L A 855 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price P6,410,000 00

UCPB 5 - COMML LOT
L A 72 sqm
L6 B3 Brgy Aromahan
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MALABON CITY

UCPB 6 - RSDL LOT
L A 785 sqm
L 21 d4 White Lily St.
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Minimum Bid Price P2 826 000 00

UCPB 7 - RSDL LOT
L A 175 sqm
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UCPB 8 - CONDO UNIT
F A 83 sqm
The Biltmore, 102 Aguirre St Legaspi Vill
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F A 131sqm
The Biltmore, 102 Aguirre St Legaspi Vill.
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F A 22 50 sqm
The Palm Tower San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price P712,000 00

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F A 26 85 sqm
The Palm Tower San Antonio Vill
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F A 66 51 sqm
The Palm Tower San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price P2 214 783 00

MANDALUYONG CITY

UCPB 13 - CONDO UNIT
F A 22 sqm
Ark Condominium, Sierra Madre St.
Minimum Bid Price P445,740 00

UCPB 14 - CONDO UNIT
F A 48 sqm
Ark Condominium, Sierra Madre St.
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MUNTINLUPA CITY

UCPB 15 - RSDL LOT
L A 172 sqm
L 28 B3 Lauan St Vila Carolina 11, Brgy Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price P955 000 00

UCPB 16 - TWNHSE UNIT
L A 142sqm
#700 Posadas Avenue Palio Homes
Minimum Bid Price P1 900 000 00

ORTIGAS, PASIG

UCPB 17 - CONDO UNIT
F A 279 sqm
U 101 B-A Renaissance 3000 Tower Meralco Ave
Minimum Bid Price P5 130 700 00

UCPB 18 - CONDO UNIT
F A 188 sqm
U 2605 B-B Renaissance 3000 Tower Meralco Ave
Minimum Bid Price P5,076 000 00

PASIG

UCPB 19 - CONDO UNIT
F A 65 sqm
U 302 4th flr Hampton Garden,
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Minimum Bid Price P975,000 00

UCPB 20 - CONDO UNIT
F A 105 sqm
U 509 B-09 Hampton Garden C Raymundo Ave
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PARAÑAQUE CITY

UCPB 21 - CONDO UNIT
F A 184 sqm
U 907 9/F Chateau De Baie Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price P4 625 000 00

UCPB 22 - CONDO UNIT
F A 157 sqm
U 908 9/F Chateau De Baie Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price P4,025 000 00

UCPB 23 - RSDL LOT
L A 300 sqm
B Aquino Sr St BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P1,500 000 00

UCPB 24 - RSDL LOT
L A 524 sqm
J Roxas cor R Reyes St BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2 800 000 00

UCPB 25 - TWNHSE UNIT
F A 226 sqm
#73 Unit 5 VJ Town Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2,600,000 00

UCPB 26 - RDSL LOT
L A 360 sqm
#09 N Jacinto St BF Classic Vill
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UCPB 27 - RDSL LOT
L A 621 sqm
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L A 111sqm
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UCPB 29 - CONDO UNIT
F A 121sqm
Unit 303 Whitehasco Araneta Ave cor Bayani St
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L A 54 sqm
Unit 18 St Dionicio Royale Exec Homes,
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L A 150sqm
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L A 152 sqm
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F A 442sqm
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F A 188sqm
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UCPB 44 - RDSL LOT
L A 192sqm
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L A 165sqm
#4022 Grapes St Pag-asa Subd Gen T de Leon
Minimum Bid Price P412,500 00

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UCPB 46 - RSDL LOT
L A 350 sqm
L11 B5 Sadingham St
Barrington Place Bgy Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1 435 000 00

UCPB 47 - RSDL LOT
L A 1150 sqm
L10 B3 Town & Country Estate Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P4 374 00 00

UCPB 48 - RSDL LOT
L A 834 sqm
L5 B2 Seiford St Town & Country Estate
Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P3,170,000 00

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L A 678 sqm
L20 B3 Parkridge Executive Vill Bo Mayamot
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UCPB 50 - RSDL LOT
L A 640 sqm
L4 B4 Parkridge Executive Vill Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1,028 500 00

UCPB 51 - RSDL LOT
L A 605 sqm
L3 B7 Parkridge Executive Vill Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P881 400 00

UCPB 52 - RSDL LOT
L A 366 sqm
L15 B29 Main Road (Rd Lot 44 Forest Hill Phse 1)
Minimum Bid Price P1 098 000 00

UCPB 53 - RSDL LOT
L A 300sqm
L1 B8 Tres Hermanas Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P972 000 00

UCPB 54 - RSDL LOT
L A 674 sqm
L55 & 54 B50 Camaro St
Vill East Executive Homes Cainta
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UCPB 55 - RSDL LOT
L A 134 sqm
L8 B3 Condor St Vista Verde Country Homes
Minimum Bid Price P310 000 00

UCPB 56 - COMML LOT
L A 400 sqm
ML Quezon Ext Brgy Dalig
Minimum Bid Price P2 200 000 00

UCPB 57 - RSDL LOT
L A 261sqm
L5 B3 Foliage Hills
Minimum Bid Price P1,148 400 00

UCPB 58 - RSDL LOT
L A 216 sqm
L6 B3 Foliage Hills
Minimum Bid Price P864,000 00

UCPB 59 - RSDL LOT
L A 168 sqm
L20 B1 Hills of Mara Alta
Minimum Bid Price P672,000 00

UCPB 60 - RSDL LOT
L A 153 sqm
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L A 385 sqm
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L A 254 sqm
L11 B4 Cottonwood Heights Subd
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L A 1,152 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price P630,000 00

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L A 2 315 sqm
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L A 324 sqm
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L A 2 778 sqm
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L A 180 sqm
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Bgy Bulihan Malolos
Minimum Bid Price P300 000 00

UCPB 71 - RSDL LOT
L A 347 sqm
L20 B27 Along Assumption Road Area C
Sapang Palay, SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P575 000 00

UCPB 72 - RSDL LOT
L A 50 sqm
L14 B13 Ayukit Subdivision
Bgy Binang 2nd Turo Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price P143,000 00

UCPB 73 - RSDL LOT
L A 100 sqm
L2 B15 Ayukit Subdivision
Bgy Binang 2nd Turo Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price P287 421 90

UCPB 74 - RSDL LOT
L A 128 sqm
L1 B1 Ayukit Subdivision
Bgy Binang 2nd Turo Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price P419 635 97

CAVITE

UCPB 75 - RSDL LOT
L A 534 sqm
L172 B54 Manila Southwoods Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P2 673 000 00

UCPB 76 - RSDL LOT
L A 548 sqm
L17 B35 Manila Southwoods Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P2 740 000 00

UCPB 77 - RSDL LOT
L A 801 sqm
Phase 4 Bayhill Drive Mla Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P3 604 500 00

UCPB 78 - RSDL LOT
L A 1 000sqm
L13 B12 Rodeo Country Estate Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P800 000 00

UCPB 79 - FARM LOT
L A 925 sqm
L20 B8 Rodeo Country Estate Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P740 000 00

UCPB 80 - FARM LOT
L A 1 000 sqm
L16 B8 Rodeo Country Estate Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P700,000 00

UCPB 81 - CONDO UNIT
F A 71 sqm
Unit 61B Vista De Loro Height Puerto Azul
Minimum Bid Price P2,700 000 00

UCPB 82 - RSDL LOT
L A 529 sqm
L6 4&2 B6 No 44 Sampaguita St
Martin De Porres Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P3,500 000 00

UCPB 83 - RSDL LOT
L A 615 sqm
L37 B1 Manila Southwood St., Cabilang Baybay
Minimum Bid Price P2,150 000 00

ILOILO

UCPB 84 - RSDL LOT
LA 704 sqm
B 129 Along Puentes & De Guelle Streets,
Bgy San Agustin City Proper
Minimum Bid Price P7 040 000 00

UCPB 85 - RSDL LOT
LA 1 940 sqm
2126 B - 14 Bgy Abelo Mirasol Mandurriao
Minimum Bid Price P1 820 000 00

UCPB 86 - RSDL LOT
LA 903 sqm
B4 L7 9 10 Along Dona Luz Ave &
Cadena De Amor St. Don Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P2,260 000 00

BIÑAN, LAGUNA

UCPB 87 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 126 sqm
L1 B2 San Jose Vill Phase 4-C
Minimum Bid Price P820,000 00

UCPB 88 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 128 sqm
L2 B7 San Jose Vill Phase 4-C,
Minimum Bid Price P820 000 00

UCPB 89 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 138 sqm
L18 B7 San Jose Vill Phase 4 -C
Minimum Bid Price P840 000 00

CALAMBA, LAGUNA

UCPB 90 - RSDL LOT
L A 279 sqm
Palacio Real Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P753, 300 00

UCPB 91 - RSDL LOT
L A 528 sqm
Palacio Real Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P1 425 600 00

UCPB 92 - RESORT BLDG
L A 300 sqm
L5 H-9 Maria Makiling Village Bo Pansol
Minimum Bid Price P4,000,000 00

PILA, LAGUNA

UCPB 93 - RSDL LOT
L A 231 sqm
L1 & L2 B 3 Adelina Compound Sta Clara Norte
Minimum Bid Price P250 000 00

UCPB 94 - COMML LOT & BLDG
L A 986 sqm
L1 Blk 24 Along Diversion Road corner
Unnamed Subd Road Grand Riviera
Minimum Bid Price P3 500 000 00

UCPB 95 - RSDL LOT
L A 300 sqm
L 2639 C-2 Don Regino Sts Greenland Subd.
Bgy Sta Clara
Minimum Bid Price P1,000 000 00

UCPB 96 - RSDL LOT
L A 458 sqm
Within Ocampo Compound Sta Clara Sur
Minimum Bid Price P500 000 00

UCPB 97 - RSDL LOT
L A 720 sqm
L 4-D Along Diversion Road Bulihan Norte
Minimum Bid Price P1 800 000 00

SAN PABLO, LAGUNA

UCPB 98 - RSDL LOT
L A 263 sqm
Along Road Lot 7 & 9 Richwood Park Vill
Minimum Bid Price P473,400 00

UCPB 99 - RSDL LOT
L A 271 sqm
Along Road Lot 7 & 9 Richwood Park Vill.
Minimum Bid Price P487,900 00

UCPB 100 - RSDL LOT
L A 323 sqm
Along S Brucal Avenue Green Valley Subd
San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P480,000 00

UCPB 101 - RSDL LOT
L A 258 sqm
Along S Brucal Avenue Green Valley Subd
San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P361,200 00

UCPB 102 - RSDL LOT
L A 250 sqm
Along S Brucal Avenue Green Valley Subd
San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P358 400 00

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

UCPB 103 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 178 sqm FA 44
L13 B 19 Sta Rosa Vill Phase 4-A Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price P935 000 00

UCPB 104 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 138 sqm FA 70
L 3 B 6 Sta Rosa Vill Phase 4-A Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price P968 000 00

LAGUNA

UCPB 105 - RESORT LOT
L A 175 sqm
L30 B8 Within Asia Ville Subd
Bo Masaya Bay
Minimum Bid Price P350,000 00

UCPB 106 - RESORT LOT
L A 183 sqm
L 1 B9 Within Asia Ville Subd.
Bo Masaya Bay
Minimum Bid Price P350 000 00

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

UCPB 107 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 454 sqm
L 34 & 36 B 13 Metro Montana Ville
Minimum Bid Price P1 520 000 00

UCPB 108 - COMML LOT
L A 19 169 sqm
Conrock Crushing Plant Bo
Gunayang San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price P3,750,000 00

UCPB 109 - RSDL LOT
L A 1 500 sqm
Along Bgy Road Bgy May-iba, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price P1,733 000 00

LUCENA CITY

UCPB 110 - RSDL LOT
L A 180 sqm
L22 B11 #19 Along Bolivia St
Butler Living Subd Isabang
Minimum Bid Price P1 184 000 00

UCPB 111 - COMML LOT
L A 1 410 sqm
Purok Matahimik Brgy Cotta
Minimum Bid Price P4 910 000 00

UCPB 112 - RSDL LOT
L A 194 sqm
L 4734 C A 2 Along Trinidan St
Barangay XI Poblacion
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LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m^2 P3,473/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25

MAKATI

SAN LAZARO VILL. 7001393

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m^2 P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

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Arcadia Adj Corinthians VLot 840m^2 P33TH 721-3127

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HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

BIRMINGHAM
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H&L/Lot/Twnhse
San Mateo 2br1tb grg P1Mup
Cainta 3br 2tb garage P1.5M
Antipolo 2br2tb grge P1.150T
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LOT

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OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m^2 P3,125/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m^2 & 134m^2 P3,534/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

RUSH SALE Canyon Woods 460m^2 Prime cor. Lot Ph1 8712525/09178933598 Denny

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m^2 P2,284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m^2 P180/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 180m^2 P2,900/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m^2 P2,900/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m^2 P5,750/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m^2 P2,650/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m^2 LA 240m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Memorial Garden Type 7112256

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CRESENCA VILLAPANE-TAC-AN was extra-judicially settled among her heirs on May 16, 2003 under Deed, as Doc. No. 632, Page 72, Book LII, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Teresita Palma-Donasco of Tandag, Surigao del Sur and Doc. No. 20, Page No. 5, Book LIX, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Cipriano U. Asili of Batangas City.
(PDI-April 3, 11 & 17, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICENTE DE VILLA SR & CONSUELO DE VILLA of San Juan Batangas was Adjudicatedly settled to his only heir as per Doc No. 447, Page No. 01, Book No. XXXVII Series of 2004 of Notary Public Antoliny Oliva of Marikina City.
(PDI-April 4, 11, 18, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Please take notice that Stock Certificate No. A-7379 of Ayala Corporation in the name of Socorro Singson y Roxas covering 18,164 shares of stock has been reported lost.

This is to inform the public that the stock certificate no. C0562 of Becco Phils. Inc. at Orchard Golf & Country Club got lost. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-March 28,April 4&11, 2004)

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SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to **SILAY-HPCO**, as follows:

SILAY-HPCO ACEF PROJECT

PROJECT 1 : UPGRADING OF MILL EQUIPMENT - INSTALLATION OF CANE SHREDDER

		APPROVED BUDGET
LOT 1	- Upgrade of Turbodyne Steam Turbine, Engineering and Equipment	- Php 1,700,000.00
LOT 2	- Upgrade of Turbodyne Gearbox, Engineering Equipment and Commissioning	- 3,900,000.00
LOT 3	- Feed Drum Gear Reducer	- 800,000.00
LOT 4	- Heavy Duty Shredder Rotor Including Shaft, Hubs, Pivot Pins, Swinging Hammers and Bearings	- 4,500,000.00
	TOTAL BUDGET	**Php 10,960,000.00**

PROJECT 2 : REPLACEMENT OF MILL'S DSM SCREEN TO ROTARY SCREEN

LOT 1	- Rotary Cylindrical Juice Screen and Accessories	- Php 4,660,000.00
LOT 2	- Structural Support for Rotary Juice Screen	- 900,000.00
LOT 3	- 1 unit Spare Juice Screen	- 1,440,000.00
	TOTAL BUDGET	**Php 7,000,000.00**

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	**April 6, 2004 - April 19, 2004** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM SRA Bidding Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Annex Bldg. Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 500.00
Pre-Bid Conference	**April 12, 2004 - 9:00 AM**
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelope	**April 20, 2004 - 9:00 AM** Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - April 3 & 11, 2004)

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

The DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee (JBC), thru the Eligibility and Evaluation Group (EEG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's

Policy	Indicative Budget	Period Covered
Protection and Indemnity Cover 2nd Bidding	US$ 202,352 85	2400 HRS 24 May 2004 to 2400 HRS 24 May 2005
Motor Vehicle Fleet Insurance	P 8,073 500 00	2400 HRS 01 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 01 June 2005
Marine Open Policy	P 30,375 788 00	2400 HRS 23 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 23 June 2005

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
April 19 to May 18, 2004 9 00 am-5 00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EDPC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	**April 28, 2004** 2 00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	**May 19, 2004** 2 00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200 00 for each policy applied for, to the National Power Corporation, however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) **Atty. PORFIRIO B. VILLENA, JR.**
Director IV PDMSG
Presiding Officer, Evaluation and Eligibility Group
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

Inquirer-April 4,11,17,2004

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PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for.

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
Supply of Laminated Reflective Glass	1.5 million	3,000.00

Source of Funding: PHC FUNDS

The list of eligibility requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable bidding fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 3, 2004 not later than 4.00 p.m. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Divison at tel. no. 922-0574 ask for Ms Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)** of Republic Act No. 9184 pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any chages in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - April 3, 4, 11 & 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division Office of North Cotabato
Kidapawan City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : April 3, 2004
Loan No. : PH P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2004-FURN-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Supply and Delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Division of North Cotabato invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, and library at the 21 secondary schools in the seven (7) municipalities under the Division of North Cotabato.
3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantity of all the furniture items intended for the schools in the Division of North Cotabato per Schedule of Requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Division of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City at telefax numbers (064) 4212691, (064) 2784144 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurement service.org.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on April 12, 2004 upon submission of Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd Division Office cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Division of North Cotabato not later than 10:00 a.m. on April 26, 2004 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in paragraph 6 on April 19, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.
8. The DepEd Division Office of North Cotabato concerned reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **MA. ROSA C. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, Division Bids
and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 4 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. No.: 3378812 / 3373549 / 3376006 Telefax: 3364219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City invites all interested dealers/suppliers to apply for Registration & Eligibility and to Bid for the procurement of the following items:

1. 1,425 units PEDAL RICE THRESHER
   L-25 inches W-28 inches H-30 inches
   Materials:
   a) Body: Marine plywood, #26 plain GI sheet 1/8" x 1-1/2" angle bar, 2'x2' Hardwood
   b) Rotary drum: Marine plywood, 1" x 3" x 18-1/2" (12 pcs.), Tie wire # 10

   Terms of Purchase:
   1. Delivered from source to DA-WESVIARC, Hamungaya, Jaro, Iloilo City - 815 units
   2. Delivered from source to DA Quarantine Office, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental - 610 units

   Approved Budget P 4,275,000.00
   Minimum Required Bid Security 106,875.00
2. One (1) unit CORN SHELLER
   Output Capacity - 2.5 tons shelled corn based on 18-20% MC
   Engine - 10-12 Hp Diesel engine (Watercooled)
   Shelling recovery % min. 97.0
   Shelling efficiency % min. 99.50
   Lose % max
   a) Blower 1.0
   b) Separation 1.0
   c) Unshelled 0.5
   d) Scattering 0.5
   Purity % min. 98.0
   Mechanically damage kernel % max. 3.0
   Net crack kernel % max. 5.0
   Max. level dB Max 100
   Warranty 6 months on parts & service (excluding consumable parts)
   Type – Mobile
   With complete accessories containing tools manual
   All brand new
   Other requirement – AMTEC test
   Terms of purchase:
   1. Delivered from source to DS Benedicto, Negros Occidental
   Approved Budget P 95,000.00
   Minimum Required Bid Security 2,375.00

   The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, Registration & Eligibility Requirements	April 19, 2004 not later than 5:00 p.m.
• Issuance of Bid Documents	April 23, 2004
• Pre Bid conference	May 3, 2004, 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 17, 2004, 9:30 a.m. DA War Room
• Opening of Bids	May 17, 2004, 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.

All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid No. 2004-06 & 07

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defects or formality thereof and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III
Regional Executive Director

(PDI – April 3 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Project
Italian Soft Loan Facility

SUPPLEMENTAL BID BULLETIN

Reference is made to the Invitation to Bid published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star on March 20 and 25, 2004 regarding the Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Project (ARCDSP) of the Government of the Philippines to be implemented through the Department of Agrarian Reform with funding assistance from the Government of Italy.

Interested consortium or association of Italian and Filipino companies may submit their letter of intent or expression of interest to the address below by not later than April 30, 2004:

The Executive Director
Foreign Assisted Projects Office
Ground Floor, FAPSO Building, DAR Compound,
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 927-07-52; Tel: 426-74-55
E-mail: minniesi@dar.gov.ph

Short-listed candidates shall submit their bids for civil works, goods and services not later than 9:00 am, July 16, 2004.

Inquirer - April 4 & 11, 2004

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-003

PD Ref. No.: PB040122-AA0016
PR No.: ATO-03-003442

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of :
   1 Lot - **Supply & Delivery of Helicopter Rotor System & Propeller Digital Balancing Equipment**
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the attached Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is P3,498,000.00 to be sourced from the *Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.*
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **March 31 to April 29, 2004** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **April 16, 2004** at **2:00 p.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, G/F TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 a.m. of April 30, 2004** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg . Power Center, Quezon Ave. cor. BIR Rd., Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - April 3 & 11, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line : 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http//www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

HNC 04-03-30

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Mercurial Sphygmomanometer, Aneroid Sphygmomanometer and Stethoscopes. The approved budget for the supply and delivery shall be P1,330,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting April 5-23, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on May 4, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI-April 4 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric Geographical and
Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA)
Science Garden Complex, Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1104

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding date **May 12, 2004**
Pre-bid Conference **April 27, 2004**

Lot 1 Supply of Security Services
Lot 2 Supply of Janitorial Services

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using **TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM** to be opened publicly at the 2nd Floor Main Conference Room of Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Building I, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **April 14-15, 2004**.

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **April 16-20, 2004** at the General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Building I, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, to those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

Pre-bid conference will be held on **April 27, 2004** at 9:00 a.m. for the Supply of Security Services and 2:00 p.m. for the Supply of Janitorial Services at the 2nd Floor, Main Conference Room, Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

To ensure the smooth flow and to determine the eligibility of the bidders, sealed Envelope I will be opened on **May 12, 2004** by the BAC Secretariat at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for Security Services and 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. for Janitorial Services.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **May 12, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at the 2nd Floor, Main Conference Room of Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 1% Bidder's Bond in a form of Cash, Manager's Check or 2.5% GSIS/Surety Bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries, concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any bids for any reason of its own, waive any informality therein when necessary, and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROLU P. ENCARNACION**
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - Apr 4 & 11 2004)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-015

PD Ref. No.: PB040114-EL0001 (PB2)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract, Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%), or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. **Procurement of :**

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
I	WIRELESS MODEM (GSM) FOR C & I REVENUE METERS	30 SETS	P 2,500,000.00
II	DATABASE SERVER INTEL XEON W/ RACK	1 PC	P 500,000.00
III	MOBILE PC	1 UNIT	P 150,000.00
IV	PRINTER MEMORY	1 PC	P 3,000.00
V	DIGITAL CAMERA	6 UNITS	P 180,000.00
VI	DIGITAL CAMERA	1 UNIT	P 27,000.00
VII	SPSS BASE 11.5 OR 12.0 (STANDALONE)	1 UNIT	P 85,900.00
VIII	TOAD STANDARD EDITION 7.0	1 UNIT	P 48,000.00
IX	LASERJET PRINTER (NETWORK)	2 UNITS	P 96,000.00
X	LASERJET PRINTER	8 UNITS	P 320,000.00
XI	INKJET PRINTER	2 UNITS	P 30,000.00
XII	UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY	2 UNITS	P 130,000.00
XIII	SCANNER	1 UNIT	P 15,000.00
XIV	FACSIMILE	1 UNIT	P 18,000.00
XV	INK CARTRIDGES	10 PCS	P 11,000.00
	TOTAL		P 4,113,900.00

3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is *P 4,113,900.00* to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting *April 2, 2004 to May 4, 2004* at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD) Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on *April 21, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.* at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before *2:00 P.M. of May 5, 2004* at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – April 2 & 11, 2004)

TransCo

South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-005A

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties who are qualified to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 04, 2004; 10:00 AM

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION		ITEM	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	7 SETS	OVERCURRENT RELAY	PSMD-N-04-038	P 2,240,000.00
A2	4 SETS	OVERCURRENT RELAY	PSMD-N-04-036	650,000.00
	2 SETS	OVERCURRENT RELAY		190,000.00
	2 SETS	DIFFERENTIAL RELAY		960,000.00
A3	1312 PCS	INSULATOR, SUSPENSION	3SLR-03-102	8,449,280.00
A4	2 PCS	PORTABLE WIRELESS (W1-F1) INFRARED SCANNER	3SL-04-014	8,000,000.00
A5	61 UNITS	INDUSTRIAL BATTERY	3NCS-04-010	1,200,000.00
A6	1 SET	LEAD ACID BATTERY	3CNA-04-044	1,200,000.00
A7	1 SET	AIR BRAKE SWITCH	3CSA-04-060	1,100,000.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 – A4 — April 22, 2004; 10:00 AM at SLT Bidding Room
2) A5 – A7 — April 22, 2004; 2:00 PM at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting **April 13, 2004.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL-O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the Form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
CHAIRMAN-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI – April 11, 2004)

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

EMILIANO 'Emil' T. BAUTISTA

8 February 1931 – 8 April 2004

Golfer. Parent. Public Servant. Businessman.
"He played his game well.
He played the game of life with excellence."

He is well-loved by his wife **Cora**, children **Rowena**, **Emilyn & Karlo**; and grandchildren **Joaquin**, **Enrique, Ramon, & Czarina.**

"We shall miss you so very much, Lolo Dad."

His remains lie in state at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Maysilo, Malabon.

Cremation has been set for April 13, 2004, 4:00 p.m. at Eternal Gardens North Diversion, Caloocan City.

Tel. No. 2884125

JOSE "NONOY" SANOSA LAYSON

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on April 6, 2004
at the age of 78.

His wife – LOURDES AHYONG LAYSON
Children – JOSE BUMATAY LAYSON JR., RITA PAJARILLO LAYSON, JENNIFER LAYSON, MARY ANN LAYSON
– LIZABETH LAYSON DONESA, FELIX VILLA DONESA, DERICK L. DONESA
– JOSEPH AHYONG LAYSON, ALICIA ARJONA LAYSON, JOSEPH SETH SEAN LAYSON, JEAN AIRA NICOLE LAYSON
SISTERS – LUTGARDA LAYSON REDOBLADO, CARMEN LAYSON SANIN

nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at family residence in Centro, Polangui, Albay.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at Our Garden of Faith Memorial Park after the 9 a.m. Mass.

CRISPINA KALAQUIAN PEÑAFLOR

of Dinalupihan, Bataan
Peacefully joined the Lord on April 10, 2004
at the age of 92.

She will be missed most by her daughters **Agnes P. Acuña**, **Dolores P. Alejandrino**; son **Armando K. Peñaflor**; daughter-in-law **Dong**; grandchildren **Michael, Michelle, Dino, JC, Mitch & JR**; sister **Lourdes K. Samson**; in-laws, relatives and friends.

Her body lies at the family residence 66 Zamora St., Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Interment will be announced later.

Salvacion "Salve" Rivera Ayo

Passed away in the grace of our Lord
on the 6th of April, 2004 at the age of 67.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Imperial
Penafrancia Avenue, Naga City

She is survived by her brothers and sisters, Msgr. **Luis, Jose** and **Sister Mary**, DC; sisters-in-law **Consuelito, Puring,** and **Emilia Manuela.**

Nephews and Nieces **Nessy, Gerry, Ida, Bebot, Bobby, Guia, Mila, Zita, Gemma, Berting, Mary-Ann, Ferdinand, Regie, Alex, Edgar;** Father **Terencio Matthew, Florencio Thomas,** Judge **Antonio Camillus, Ramon Nonito, Arnold Amancio, Reino Stephen, Maribeth Corazon;** Father **Enrico Emmanuel, Arturo Alexander,** Dr. **Joseph Johan, Gilbert Gabriel.**

Nephews and Nieces-in-law; Grand Nephews and Nieces.

The remains of **SALVE** will be transferred on **April 12, 2004, Monday** to the **Peñafrancia Shrine** for the **1:30 p.m. Funeral Mass.** Interment at the Peñafrancia Catholic Cemetery will follow.

Please pray for the eternal repose of the Soul of SALVE.

MARIANO V. VERZO

Ex-Mayor of Sual, Pangasinan
1986-1995
Peacefully joined the Lord on April 8, 2004
at the age of 72.

He shall be missed by his bereaved wife **Perla**, children **Alexander** and **Soledad**, **Emmanuel** and **Amelia**, **Carlomagno** and **Celeste**, **Miguel**, **Eugenio (†)** and **Hannah**, grandchildren **Katrina**, **Emmanuel Jr.**, **Patricia**, **Marianne Lucas** and **Nicole** and brothers **Virgilio Conrado (†)** and **Victor**, their families and other relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 4:00 p.m., La Funeraria Paz Crematory, Quezon City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Atty. Gregorio C. Sembrano

Died peacefully on April 8, 2004
at the age of 72.

His loving wife **Fely**; brother **Ato**; children **Fr. Gerry, Gilbert, Glenn** and **Cristy**; grandchildren **Amiel** and **Iora**; and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Eric Santiago Memorial Chapel, 26 Bayan-bayanan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City.

Interment will be on April 14, 2004 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal after the 1 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish, Concepcion I, Marikina City.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

Invitation for Pre-qualification

Loan No. 1746PHI
Contract No. STP-1

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the Contract No. STP-1. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank.
2. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the design-build of 600 m³ Septage Treatment Plant. The works for this project shall include but is not limited to the design and supply of all labor materials and equipment for the construction of the following:
   - ☐ Septage Acceptance Unit
     - Trucks/tankers off loading
     - Screening, de-gritting and grease removal
   - ☐ Hydraulic balance (holding tanks)
   - ☐ Primary Sedimentation
   - ☐ Biological Treatment
   - ☐ Disinfection
   - ☐ Sludge Dewatering Unit
   - ☐ Solid Stabilization and disinfection
   - ☐ Stabilized solids storage/Reuse
   - ☐ Odour Control
   - ☐ Process Control and SCADA
   - ☐ Civil Works and Site Development Works
     - Administration/Laboratory/change room
     - Road, drainage and fence
     - Water and backup power supply
     - Landscape (greens) and parking space
     - Motor pool
     - Fencing
     - Ladders & walkways
3. MWSS (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer") intends to pre-qualify firms for Design and Build of a 600 m³/d Septage Treatment Plant.
4. It is expected that invitation for Bids will be issued by July 2004.
5. Interested eligible Applicants should obtain further information from MWSS and inspect the Pre-qualification Document at the address given below, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

   THE CHAIRMAN (BAC)
   Bidding and Awards Committee
   Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
   Ground Floor, MWSS Deputy Administration Office
   Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
   Philippines
6. The Pre-qualification Document, in the English Language, may be purchased starting **April 16, 2004** by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Php200.00 (Two Hundred Pesos)**. The method of payment will be a cashier's check. The document can be sent by airmail or via courier at Applicant's expense.
7. Application for Eligibility in four (4) sets must be submitted to the above address not later than 5:00 p.m. of **15 June 2004**.

   The official timer for purpose of determining the official time shall be that of the bundy clock located at the office of the MWSS BAC Chairman.

   Late submission of accomplished Pre-qualifications Documents will not be accepted.
8. The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their Applications.
9. The Employer will notify all Applicants in writing of the names of those Applicants who have been pre-qualified.

(Sgd.) **MACRA A. CRUZ**
Acting Administrator

(PDI – April 11 & 25, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-013

PD Ref. No.: PB040212-EL0027

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of Spareparts for BK117 C1 Helicopter & Super King Air 350
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid ***P 7,179,758.96*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***April 2 - 29, 2004*** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***April 19, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 A.M. of April 30, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – April 2 & 11, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-016

PD Ref. No.: PB040309-EL0036

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, howeve, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. **Procurement of :**
   SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF REMOTE FIBER OPTICS CABLE MONITORING SYSTEM
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is ***P 5,000,000.00*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***April 2 - 29, 2004*** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***April 19, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 A.M. of May 4, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – April 2 & 11, 2004)

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12:00 noon
Day before publication

ARACELI LACHICA JULIANO
"LILY"

Retired U.P. Professor of Biology

Peacefully joined her Creator
9th of April 2004 at the age of 72.

Her husband, children, their spouses and grandchildren request for prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Chapels 1 & 2, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment mass will be held on Monday, April 12, 2004 at 12 noon. Interment will immediately follow at the Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu, Fisheries St. Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

Her laughter echoes still
especially today as we celebrate her birthday.

DEANNA REGALADO BUNCIO
was born to a life full of love and joy
on April 10, 1971
then, embraced the warmth and peace of our Lord
last December 8, 2003.
Thank you Deanna
for sharing your celebration of life with us.
Nonoy, Rory and Nikolai Buncio

For those who wish to comfort her family, Nonoy Buncio may be reached at 0919 5884599

Message of Thanks

Our thanks to all those who offered Masses, novenas and prayers; sent flowers and messages of sympathy; kept vigil and attended the funeral rites; and who in countless ways condoled with, helped and comforted us in our moment of grief. Thank you.

From the family of

LUIS CAJUCOM GUTIERREZ
October 10, 1928 - March 19, 2004

In Loving Memory

on the Third Death Anniversary of

DR. LELAND S. VILLADOLID

An expert in Internal Medicine, Thyroidology, Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine
Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (1986-1988)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on April 11, 2001.

Holy Masses will be offered on Sunday, April 11, 2004 at the following

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
Makati Medical Center Chapel, Makati City	7:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	8:45 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Timog, Quezon City	9:00 a.m.
Colegio de San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas Village, Makati	9:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church, Dao, Makati City	9:00 a.m.
Nativity of Our Lady Parish, Industrial Valley Subdivision, Marikina	9:00 a.m.

His loving wife **Ming**; loving children **Connie** and **Mulo**, **Vicky** and **Don**, **Leland Jr.** and **Marivic**, **Paul** and **Shelma**, **Katrina** and **Ito**; grandchildren **Bianca**, **Jason**, **Javi**, **Nico**, **Pocholo** and **Pascale**; siblings and in-laws **Lydia** and **Felix Sibal**, **Oscar** and **Alice Villadolid**, **Doy** and **Naty Villadolid**, **Purita** (†) and **Pelayo Perez**(†), **Norma** and **Celso Reinoso**; relatives and friends request you to remember him in your prayers.

In Loving Memory of

FRANCISCO N. NIEVA
"Frank"

(September 17, 1944 – April 11, 2003)

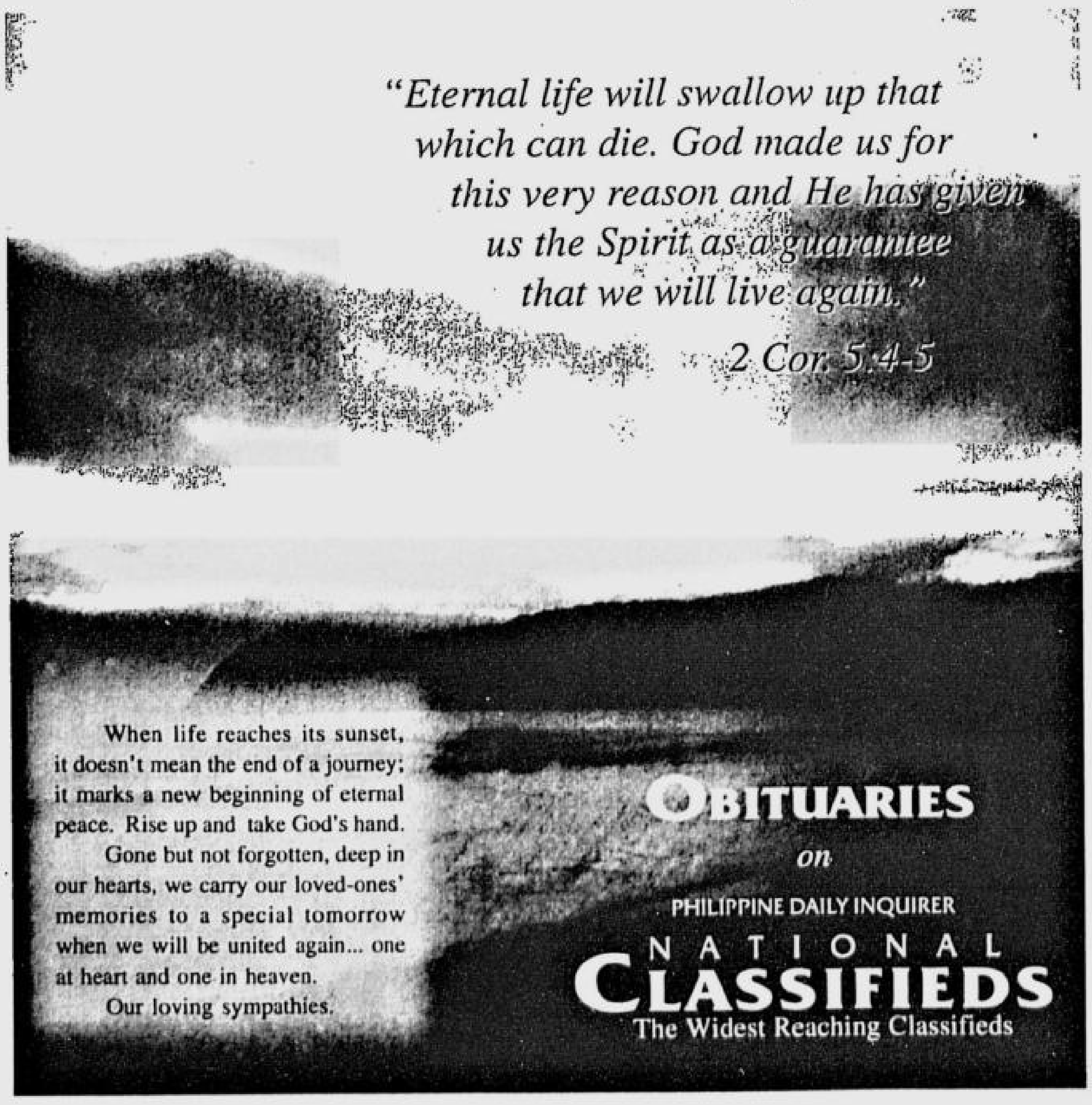
on his First Death Anniversary

Holy Masses will be offered on April 11, 2004, Easter Sunday, between 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the following churches:

- St. John Bosco Parish
- Church of Our Lady of Pilar
- Immaculate Conception Parish
- National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary
- Baclaran (Redemptorist) Church
- Santisimo Rosario Parish
- Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene
- San Isidro Labrador Parish

We request those whose lives he has touched to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Dearly remembered by his wife, children, relatives and friends.



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES
on
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

Our Dearly Beloved
Papa

JUDGE SALVADOR C. CEGUERA (Ret.)

Of Iriga, Camarines Sur & Quezon City
Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus and his wife, Rosita
on April 9, 2004 at the age of 73.

His children **RAMON & MARISA**, **WILFREDO & CHERYL**, **PHILIP & ANABEL**, and **MARA**; sister, **MARY**; grandchildren, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish Church, 20 Neptune St., Congressional Subdivision, Quezon City where he faithfully served the Lord in various lay ministries.

Cremation schedule shall be announced later.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa

Korean technology adopted to address classroom shortage

IN LINE with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's thrust in improving the standard of education in the country, the Department of Public Works and Highways adopted a new construction technology by utilizing Iso-Panel pre fabricated material to immediately address the shortage of 44,000 classrooms in the country.

The "Dura-Quick" building design which shortens the construction period of a typical two-classroom school building to only 12 days at a much lower cost that conventional materials was approved and endorsed by DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez and concurred by Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani.

The accreditation for school building design and structure using Iso-Panel pre-fabricated materials was given to a consortium of Korean companies which offered the technology to the Philippine government in line with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's program of addressing the classroom shortage.

Dr. Chang Ik-jin of Bo-Ryoung Realty and Development Corp, and Philippine representative of the consortium presented to DPWH Bureau of Design (BOD) Director Danilo Manalang the new technology.

To assure the effectiveness of adopting this new technology, DPWH Undersecretary Antonio Inocentes instructed Dir. Manalang to conduct comprehensive research and analysis. on the advantages of implementing this technique in our country. Hence the Matrix of Comparative Analysis perpared by the BOD showed the great advantage of Iso-Panel modular material over hollow-blocks and concrete in the areas of insulation, cost, construction period and maintenance.

The consortium was led by Lee Kyu-cheol, president of Kyoung Won Steel Corp, Lee Cheol-woo, president of Union Steel Corp, and Pang Young-suk, president of Nambu Steel Corp, South Korea's largest steel companies.

The system, which uses a metal cladding with expanded polystyrene insulation, is widely used in various buildings in Korea and is ideal for school buildings because of its quick installation, comfortable ambient temperature, low maintenance cost and durable features.

Dr. Chang, chair of Bo-Ryoung Realty said their firm has already erected prototype buildings and donated them as a gesture of goodwill to the Filipino people. These includes a two-classroom school building to the Consuelo Elem School in San Marcelino Zambales, a model school building in the Holy Angel Industrial Estate in Bacolor Pampanga, an AFP-PNP-DILG model house in Silang, Cavite, a health center in Pampanga, and a dormitory office in Malaya Power Plant in Rizal.

To further show the Korean consortium's gratitude to the Filipino people, they are donating one Iso-Panel prefabricated type classroom with chairs to be constructed in Naga City. The building materials from Korea arrived in Manila last March 23.

INQUIRER WELCOMES FORD GROUP PHILS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) welcomed the top executives of Ford Group Phils at a luncheon held recently at the PDI Boardroom. In photo are (seated from left): Mazda AVP for brand marketing communications Tonette Lee, Mazda managing director Dave Macasadia; Ford Group Phils president Henry Co; PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez; Ford AVP for corporate and government affairs Cherry Ramirez; Ford marketing and communications manager Hazel Ludovice, (standing from left): PDI AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda; PDI SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso; PDI SVP for corporate services Dave Valdes; Ford VP for sales and marketing Luie Dy Buncio; PDI chief financial officer Luis Ymson, PDI VP for marketing Donald Lim and PDI VP for advertising Pepito Olarte.

Wacoal launches new collection

SURELY, that little black dress is perfect for the upcoming ball. Your summer pieces - baby tees in pastel colors, body clinging tops and other cool separates are also ready to hit the travel bag for your weekend getaway. How about your innerwear? Are they as flexible as your active lifestyle too?

If you're using Wacoal, you'd definitely say "yes". All the more if you'll count in your shop list Wacoal's newest for the year, the Chic, the Cute, Casual and Cool T-shirt Bra collection.

Wacoal introduced these must-have undergarments during the "Intimate Moments" launch held at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Wacoal's Chic, Cute, Casual and Cool T-shirt Bra all promise versatility in style, comfort and everything good that you can expect from the world's leader in undergarment innovation.

Wacoal also brought in Fil-Am model Joy Hendrickson, its image model for the fresh collection. Like Sarah Meier and other Wacoal beauties, Hendrickson feels more beautiful and confident with Wacoal's brassiere. She shared with guests from the fashion circle how the Chic, Cute, Casual and Cool T-shirt bra can fit in women with different lifestyles and personalities.

The four products share the same world-class quality that is Wacoal, the only difference is the purpose for which each is designed. The four T-shirt bras were introduced via a fashion show directed by fashion authority Robbie Carmona and hosted by TV personality Sarah Meier.

PMA SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL TOUR AT THE INQUIRER

The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) recently sponsored an educational tour at the Philippine Daily Inquirer for over 25 select marketing students from the country's top colleges and universities. The tour was part of a program organized by the PMA to train the students in the different aspects of marketing. With the students in photo is Inquirer corporate relations assistant, Zane Ronquillo.

AIR21 SUPPORTS THE TOUR DE BATANGAS

Air21, the domestic service of Airfreight 2100 Inc, sole licensee of FedEx in the Philippines, supported the Tour de Batangas, the two-day qualifying race for the 2004 season held on Nov. 15 and 16. Air21 is a customer-driven quality company committed to providing time-definite, totally reliable, efficient and innovative pick-up and delivery, and logistics services for international and domestic shipments. The company shall achieve this through outstanding leadership, total involvement, customer focus, systematic support, managed process, measurement, supplier alignment and continual improvement. The success of the company's quality efforts lies in each member of the Air21 team who will take full responsibility in ensuring that everyone will do his part in this endeavor.

Alliance Software is ISO certified

BUSINESS software solutions provider Alliance Software Inc. is pleased to announce that it has attained full ISO 9001: 2000 certification as of January, 2004. ISO certification is awarded to companies meeting international standards for service, product and process excellence.

Alliance Software is a Filipino-owned software development company specializing in software development work. It has two business domains: one, for Japan, application development outsourcing; and, two, for the domestic market, packaged software solutions in the areas of point of sales (POS) systems, distribution and accounting systems, and HRIS/payroll packages.

Alliance Software is the only 100% Filipino-owned IT company to achieve ISO certification to date. ISO certification is an internationally recognized standard of quality and excellence. Alliance Software's recent ISO clearance is an indication of the competitiveness of Filipino software in the international IT community.

Jollibee
GIFT CERTIFICATE
GIFT CERTIFICATE

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP SUPPORTS NAMFREL FOR ELECTIONS 2004

In support for clean, honest, and peaceful elections, Jollibee Foods Corp (JFC) - the country's largest food conglomerate - has donated gift certificates to the National Movement for Free and Honest Elections (Namfrel). Representatives of the different JFC group of companies, which include fast-food favorites such as Jollibee, Chowking and Greenwich, awarded the gift certificates to Namfrel president Guillermo Luz and vice president Eduardo Go during a turnover ceremony, recently held at the Jollibee Park Square branch in Makati. Shown in photo are Namfrel representatives: Guillermo Luz, president and Edward Go, vice president; Greenwich: Cherry Caluya, marketing director; Marie Ann Salapantan, advertising and PR manager; Michelle Pador, marketing officer, PR and customer affairs; Chowking: Marlon Sison, PR officer; Jollibee: Carol Kison, marketing manager and Trixie Aguinaldo, assistant product manager.

PUREFOODS-HORMEL SIGNS UP WITH METROBANK

Purefoods-Hormel Company Inc appointed Metrobank to manage its Employees Retirement Plan Fund in signing ceremonies held recently. The food manufacturing company was presented by Francisco Alejo III and Emmanuel Eraña (second and fourth from left) while Metrobank was represented by AVP Josephine Cervero and EVP/trust officer Josefina Sulit (third from left).

ANNE CURTIS FOR NATURELLE

Shown in photo is Tony Gonzales, former Tourism Secretary, and managing consultant of Lifestyle Direct Marketing Corp shaking hands with Anne Curtis after signing the contract which makes her an endorser of Naturelle, the new cosmetic product line for Mondragon Lifestyle.

AEV is RP's 2nd best small cap company

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures (AEV), the holding company of the Aboitiz Group, has been named second best small cap companies in the Philippines for the second straight year by Asiamoney, a respected Hong Kong-based financial magazine.

In its 12th annual best-managed companies poll, Asiamoney ranked AEV-whose core businesses are power distribution and generation and banking, and also holds substantial interests in transportation, food production-second overall best small cap company in the Philippines. It has classified small cap companies as those with a market capitalization not exceeding US$ 500 million.

"We are very encouraged with this recognition. We give credit to all our investee companies and all our team members who collectively make up AEV." says Jon Ramon Aboitiz, president and CEO of Aboitiz Equity Ventures.

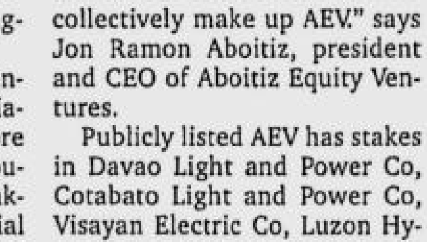
Publicly listed AEV has stakes in Davao Light and Power Co, Cotabato Light and Power Co, Visayan Electric Co, Luzon Hydro Corp, Hydro Electric Development Corp, Philippine HydroPower Corp, Southern Philippines Power Corp and Western Mindanao Power Corp.

UA&P, TOYOTA-PFCI SIGN MOA

A MOA-educational partnership on project-based internship was reached between Philippine Forklift Center Inc, Toyota's exclusive distributor in the Philippines of Toyota forklifts and the School of Management of the University of Asia and the Pacific, a leading academic and research institution in the Philippines last Jan. 22. The educational partnership is such that Toyota-PFCI commits itself, in collaboration with an Academe, in the integral formation of people who are professionally competent, creative, enterprising and earnest for the common good by promoting a program of internship mutually beneficial to both parties. Seated (from left): Nena V. Cu, corporate affairs officer-PFCI; Tina Elepaño-UA&P SMN; Ma. Rita A. Calanoc, chair/president-PFCI and Julius P. Nazareno, executive vice president-PFCI. Management trainees (Back row): Cale Altavas, Ritesh Nandwani, Grace Pascual, Jose Maria Tanyag, Ma. Rosario Calanoc, Joseph Andrew Copon and Ma. Inez Javellana.

ProductFiles

Nothing like original JanSport stylish backpacks



YOUNG people worldwide have a keen and evolving fashion sense that reflects their dynamic and highly mobile lifestyle. Whether one is sporty or just metro chic, most are conscious about the fashion statement they make with the bags that they carry.

It helps that JanSport has its own "angel" endorsing the brand. Jessica Alba uses the Yin Yang Pack that is made of durable and sturdy material that can survive all her adventures as as TV's Dark Angel.

Apart from the new and stylish design endorsed by the hottest teen icon, what really gets you sold on the original JanSport backpacks is the durability of the bag. Each product is ergonomically designed for optimal comfort and distribution. Its innovative engineering works to take the weight off the shoulders and transfer it to the proper center of gravity. Original JanSport packs also take into consideration fine workmanship and meticulous detail.

JanSport backpacks are available from authorized dealers such as Bratpack stores nationwide.

IFUGAO-INSPIRED

One-legged Sagada man pilots 'fish terraces'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—William Lapaan is a one-legged native of Sagada, Mountain Province, whose chief passion in life is to build ladders.

A self-made man, Lapaan had earned a living crafting indigenous ladders called te-te, which are used by Cordillerans to ascend Ifugao or Bontoc huts that stand on elevated posts.

So it wasn't a surprise when Lapaan on Friday commemorated the loss of his left leg to a vehicular accident, by launching his own "stairway to heaven"—the country's first "fish terraces."

The terraces were seven concrete-lined fishponds that were patterned after the centuries-old rice terraces of Ifugao and parts of Mountain Province.

Lapaan built them last year on his property along Kennon Road as a government testing facility, but he found the terraces and another fishpond a few meters away as a "very lucrative tourism project."

"I have been charging travelers, who stop by the terraces, P70 for every kilogram of tilapia they manage to harvest from the ponds. It has been a good business (venture) for us," said Lapaan's wife, Herminia.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. launched the fish terraces on March 19 as part of the government's new policy shift from a reactive food production agenda to one that would actively market the country's agricultural surplus.

Lorenzo said the country would need to add more value to the food it produces to compete in a global economy.

Lapaan's fish terraces will host some of the technology developed by the Central Luzon State University in Nueva Ecija, but which have yet to penetrate the commercial market.

Malcolm Sarmiento Jr., national director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said Munoz needed to find the market for its genetically altered "cold-tolerant tilapia" in Baguio and the Cordillera but it could not figure out how.

Then the government encountered Lapaan.

"(When BFAR approached me), I was earning enough from delivering authentic (Igorot) ladders to a Japanese buyer, even if I also smoke and dye (these) to make them look old," the 52-year-old Lapaan said.

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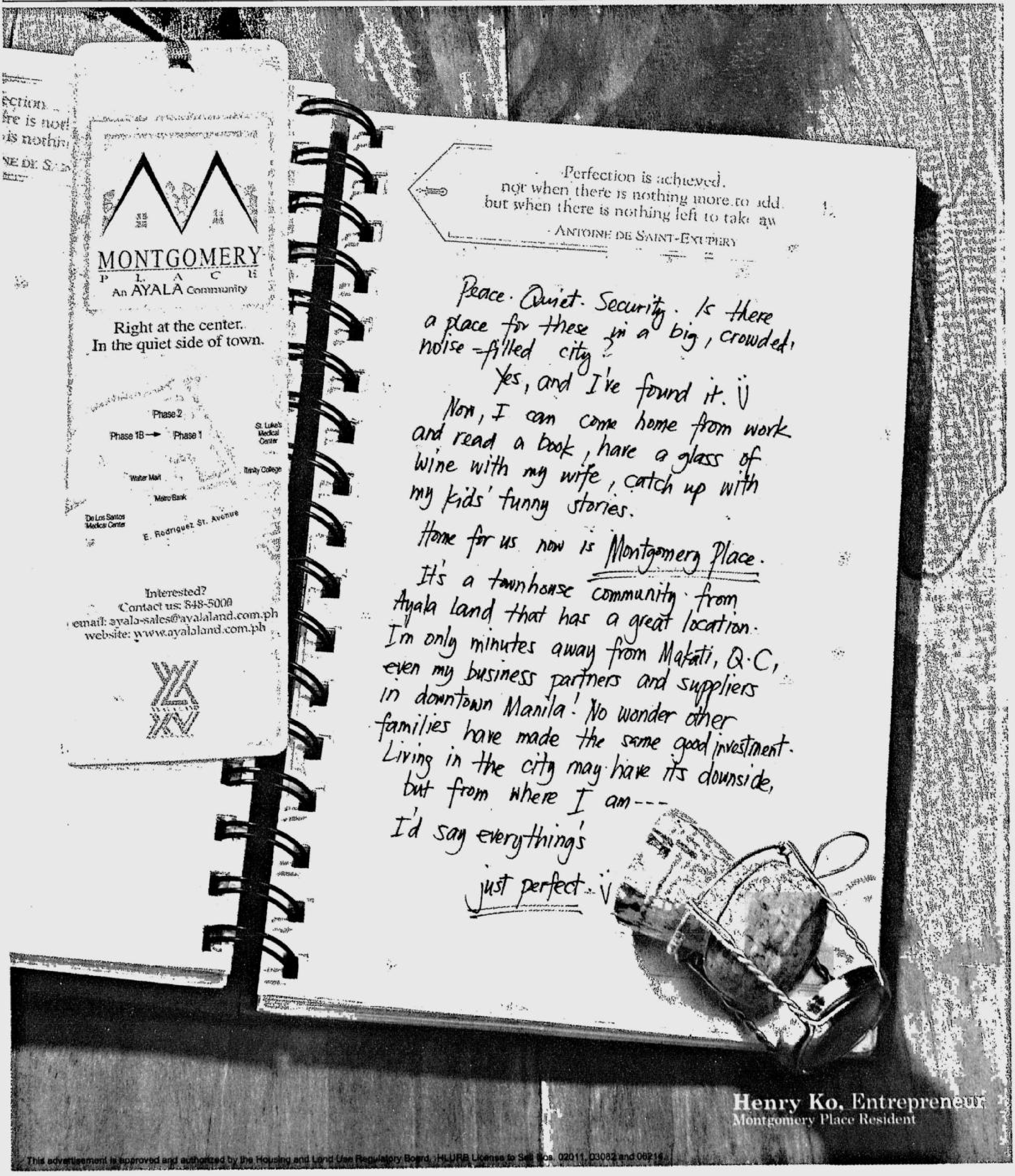

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

BALIK SAMAHAN

A gathering of stars still crazy after all the years

By Norma Japitana
Contributor

A GENTLER Amalia Fuentes was animatedly talking about her grandchildren by only daughter Liezl.

Nena, as Amalia is called by friends, was in an upbeat mood. She is still undoubtedly beautiful even if the years have given her the extra pounds. The time when she was the toast of local filmdom is long gone. But the classic line of her face, which once earned her the title Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines, has not faded with time. In fact, Amalia has aged better than Taylor.

Gloria Romero, now popularly known as "Lola Ganda" after billboards, showing her coifed and all made-up and ready to go, sprouted on Edsa, was in a black and white dress that blended very well with the dazzling red worn by Nova Villa. Both looked as if their clothes were production designed. The two are still active on television.

In the loop

Singapore-based Imelda Ilanan, breezed into town with her husband Ben Avancena and son Misha. Their visit was in time for "Balik Samahan," a monthly gathering of mature *artistas*, who are no longer active in show biz, but who still want to be in the loop or simply in touch with their colleagues.

The brainchild of Pempe Oreta and other mature stars, "Balik Samahan" has been serving as a forum for these unfading stars, who have moved on through the years. Pempe is tireless when she's making phone calls or sending text messages to these stars, some of whom are successful and happy in their new lives away from the limelight. Others have not been so lucky, but want only to relive the good old days.

This month, the get together was held last Sunday at Kookah Bar in Greenhills. This was the third gathering. The first was held at the newly built house of Liberty Ilagan in San Juan; the second at the home of Marissa Delgado in Alabang.

Kookah Bar was chosen as the venue this time because it is near where most of the stars live, and also because it is owned by Pilita Corales and husband Carlos.

Liberty Ilagan wore a white dress and an orchid on her hair. She has married an old flame, a lawyer, after her marriage to Rod Ongpauco was annulled. Her marriage in Vegas was a very romantic union.

But Liberty and Rod have remained good friends. Their children have followed Rod's footsteps. Like their father, who owns a chain of restaurants specializing in native cuisine, the children now own restaurants.

Still crazy

Marita Zobel was in green and keeping cool beside her husband. They shared a table with Robert Arevalo, Barbara Perez, Pepito Rodriguez, Ramil Rodriguez and Minda Morena. Alona Alegre later joined them. But most of them almost did not recognize the actress, who was one of the original bold stars of Philippine cinema, reigning in the '70s. She has lost so much weight that even her magnificent boobs looked small.

"What happened?" everyone asked.

Alona's secret is a "miracle tea."

She now lives in Batangas and commutes whenever there is a get-together. She joined this writer, Rusty Salazar, Amalia, Charlie Dabao, Imelda and Liberty outside the bar. Inside, the band intruded into the conversation and the stars' reminiscences of old loves, old grudges, and the inevitable gossip.

Elizabeth Poe also made an appearance. She said she had joined Susan Roces in some political sorties, but not Ronnie (Fernando Poe Jr).

"Kasi, iintindihin pa ako noon," was how she explained her non-participation in FPJ's jaunts.

There is something about people in the movies that make them different from ordinary mortals. They exude a kind of aura and glow that set them apart from the rest. Perhaps, the movies they have appeared in as stars remain in most people's mind, making them still larger than life and their memories even bigger than their past glories.

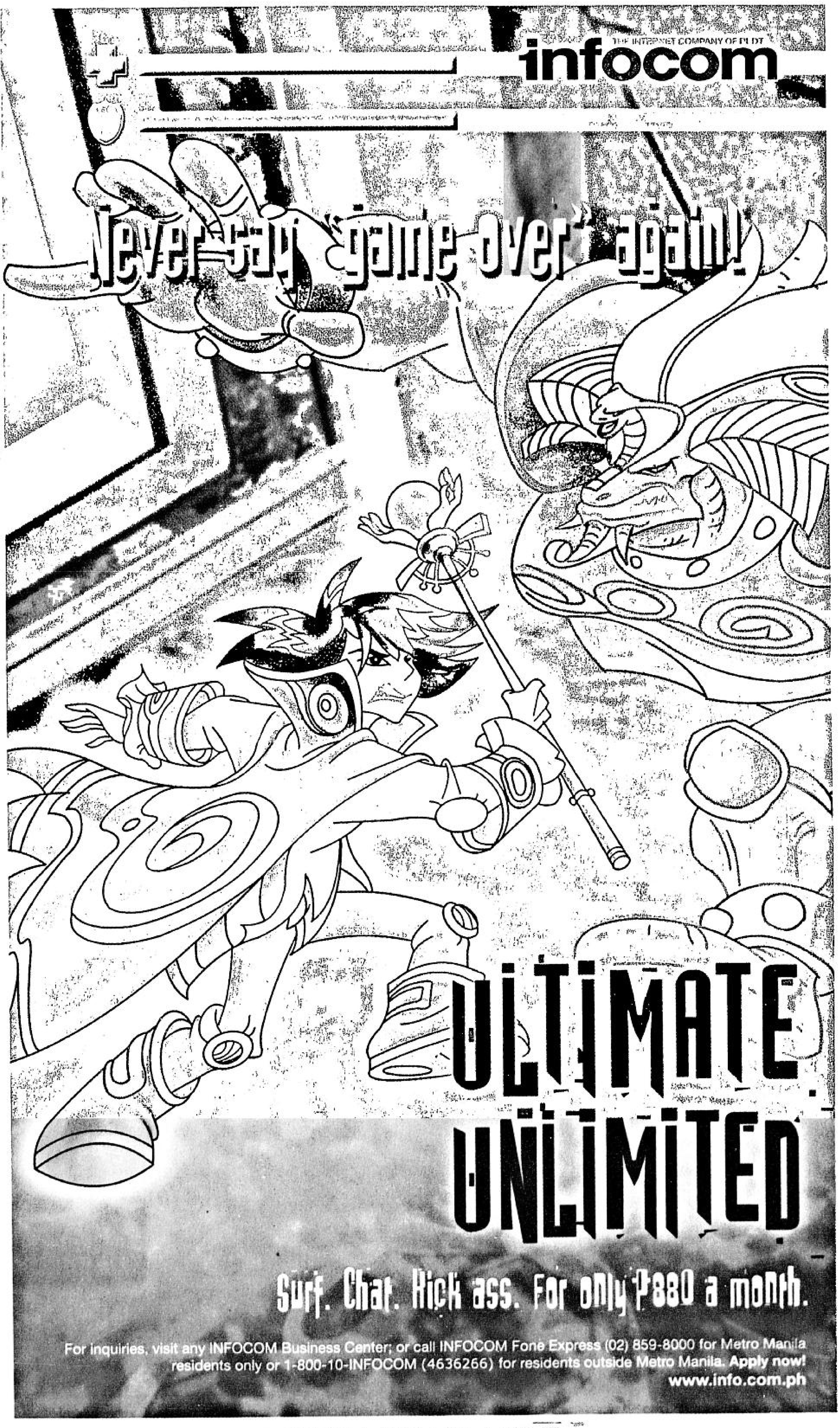
But most of the people in the group that met last week still had star presence even if they have learned to live beyond stardom and outside the studios. But their lives remain exciting. In the last "Balik Samahan," it was so pleasant to discover that the former screen goddesses Amalia, Nova, Liberty and Imelda are still fun and have remained a little crazy after all these years.

UNFADED BEAUTIES. Tina Loy, Amalia Fuentes, Myrna Borromeo, Crispina Belen, Bella Flores and Pempe Oreta

PHOTOS BY NORMA JAPITANA

GANDANG Gloria. Unfaded beauty on billboards

NOVA. Still active on television



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Editor Louie C. Camino

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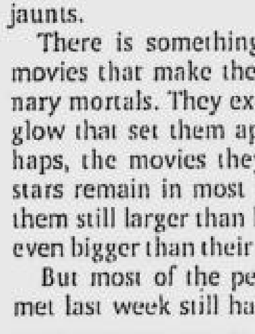
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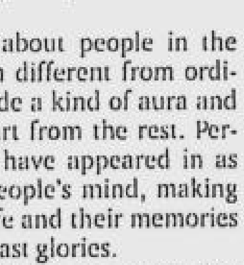
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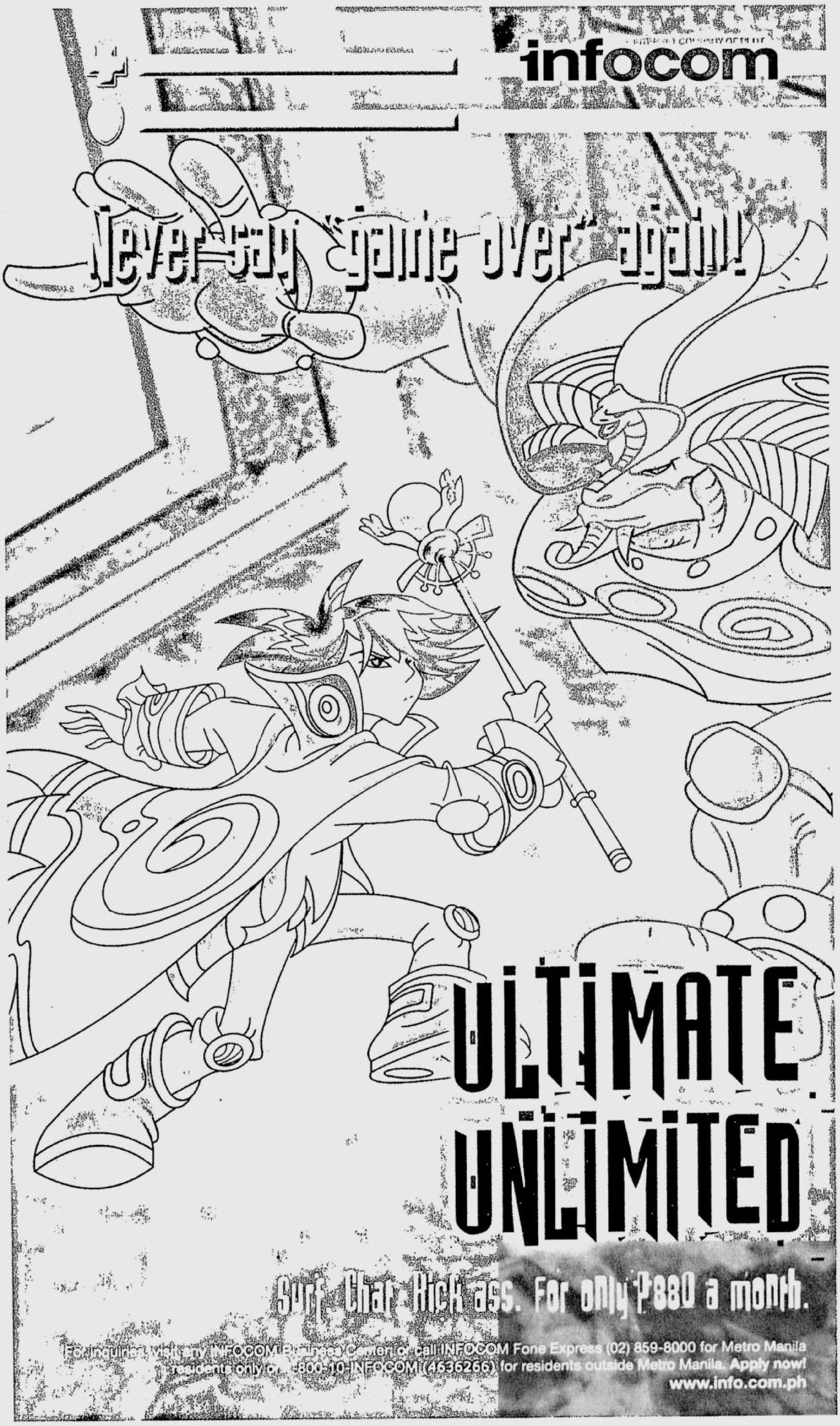
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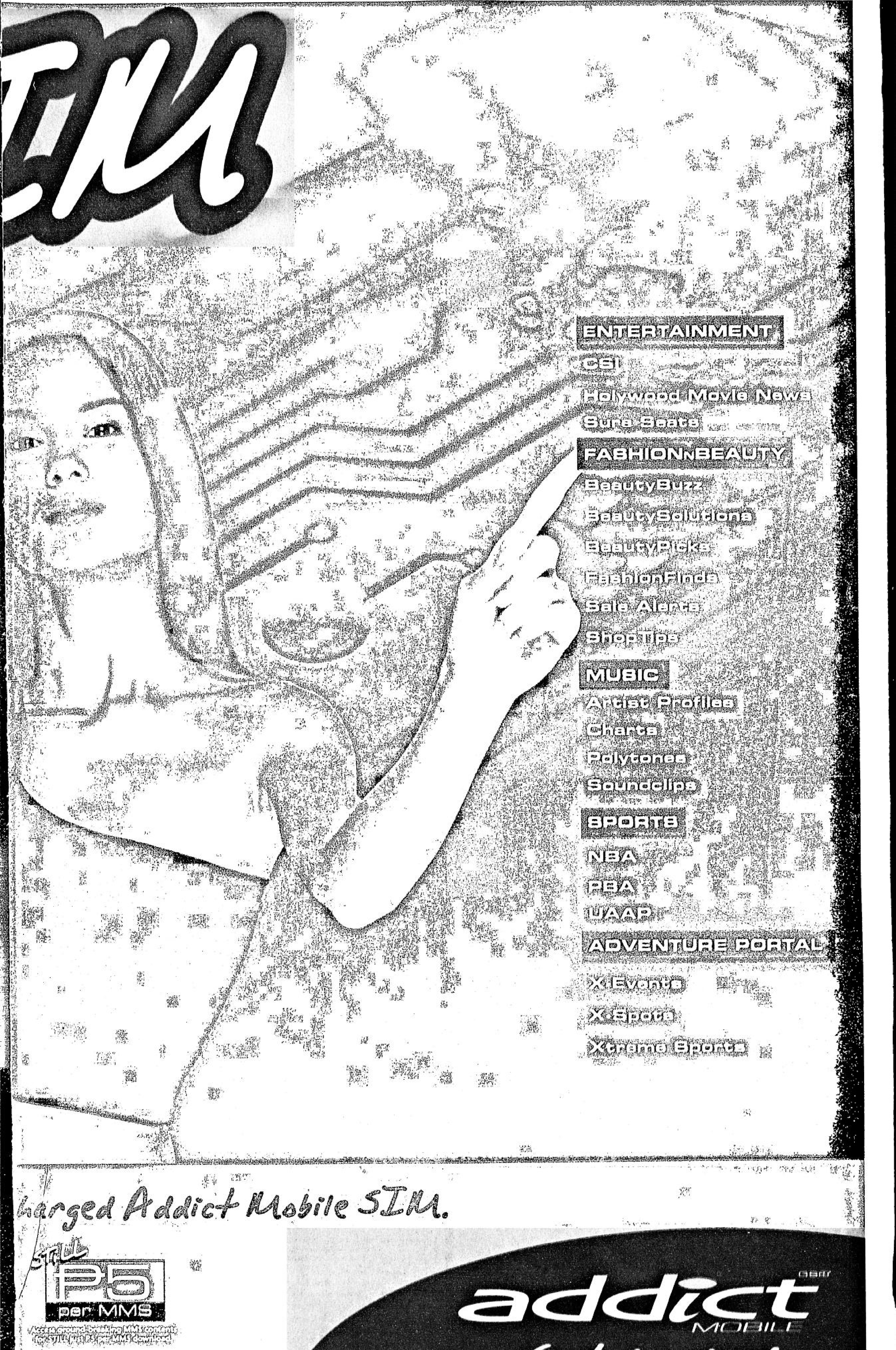

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OPENS APRIL 10!

Tomorrow's James Bonds

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE EXCEEDINGLY popular James Bond film franchise was recently rocked by reports that its signature actor, **Pierce Brosnan**, was planning to hang up his bulletproof tuxedo.

Not true, Brosnan hastened to zap the rumor before it did its worst. But the damage control, while effective, couldn't completely quell the fears of the franchise's fans that their seemingly ageless hero would eventually call it quits and opt to retire in a few more film seasons.

Not to worry, movie industry pundits aver that James Bond sagas will continue to be churned out *ad infinitum*—but hopefully not *ad nauseam*—as long as they keep making megamillions at the tills.

But how many more such films can Brosnan star in before he looks too long in the tooth to be credible as an action star? Well, just take a look at our own action superstars, best exemplified by **Eddie Garcia**, who proudly claims to be 80 years *young*. By his octogenarian yardstick, Brosnan has more than 20 good years left in him!

In any case, if and when Brosnan stops playing Bond, that doesn't mean that the franchise will end with him. At a recent film forum, names of younger actors were touted as possible successors to Brosnan as the James Bond of the future.

They included **Jude Law**, **Ewan McGregor**, **Hugh Jackman** and **Orlando Bloom**. Another list that's being floated adds the name of Olivier Martinez.

So, film fans who must have their fix of a new James Bond caper every three years or so can rest easy. There are more than enough virile and charismatic actors to keep their favorite action film franchise producing new sagas for years and even decades to come!

—And, even when Orlando shall have lost his Bloom, could a grown-up **Frankie Muniz** be far behind?

Scriptwriting contest winners

THE WINNERS of the third Star Cinema Scriptwriting Contest have been announced: Third prize, "Pamilyang Joke Only" by **Teddy A. Cidro II.**

Finalists: "PusongSawi.com" (**Romualdo E. Avellanosa**), "Banidoso" (**Onofre O. Almeyda**), "Lighthouse" (**Jocelyn A. Soriano**), "Buhay!" (**Sir Anril P. Tiatco**), "St. Bonaventure's Reunion" (**Rachel T. Malaguit**).

"Pamilya" (**Ronaldo N. Mendoza**), "Martial Law Babies" (**Jon Red, Crisanto B. Lim, Jose Mariano Victoriano**), "Huling Utos" (**Marie Jean Eda**), "Lihim ng mga Alitaptap" (**Mark Anthony Grejaldo**).

"Nagpapanggap na Diyos" (**Dianne Y. Fermin**), "Dapithapon" (**Adam Relson L. Jala**), "Bugnoy" (**Agustin DM. Sugatan Jr.**), "Once Upon A Revolution" (**Maria L.M. Fres-Felix**) and "Toni and the Ultimate Coño Dude" (**David Diuco**).

More than 100 entries were received. The specified themes in this edition of the annual competition were family, romance and youth, written in drama or comedy, or a combination of the two.

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5	The Passion of the Christ		The Passion of the Christ	GUARANTEED SEATS Peter Pan 1 30 3 50 6 10, 8 30, 10 50	Diablo
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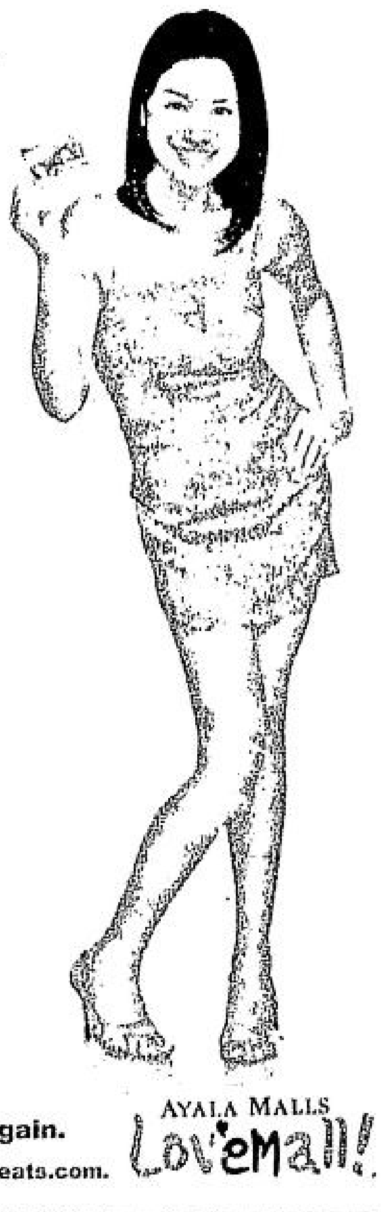

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Jason Isaacs is Hooked

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

ISAACS on Hook: He's a rather bitter, angry and melancholy man.

LOS ANGELES—"He's kind of a half Hannibal Lecter and half Liberace, isn't he?"

Jason Isaacs, shockingly pale in person after his turn as a swarthy, virile-looking Captain Hook in the movie "Peter Pan," jokes about his latest character portrayal onscreen.

"Once you put on the costume, the hook, the big hair and all that stuff, you look in the mirror and you know that you don't have to do very much," he says. "It's like Hook plays himself."

Devoid of the wig, the manly facial stubble, the velvet and silk costumes and the menacing-looking hook for a hand, Isaacs, wearing a black t-shirt over his very lean frame, couldn't be the man who plays Captain Hook with such machismo. But that's what good acting and costume design (by three-time Oscar nominee Janet Patterson) can do.

All it took to play the sly captain in this lavish, faithful film version of J.M. Barrie's beloved play that debuted 100 years ago, was "a couple of hours in the morning," Isaacs claims. "That's all it took to get ready for the full-on hysteria of the day's activity. By that time, I was already frustrated, sitting still on a chair for that long putting on of these layers and layers of costume and slapping on makeup.

"Then you get yanked up mid-air and given a giant wedgie (a tug at the underpants). It's incredibly uncomfortable and painful," he laughs.

'Pretty rotten actor'

Isaacs says of his role that has been interpreted in cartoon and pantomime: "It is written as a very rich, fully realized character. He's a rather bitter, angry and melancholy man. He's in physical pain all day long. He's reminded that he's been humiliated by this boy (Peter Pan).

"He's terrified of getting old. He hates what he sees in the mirror mostly because he realizes he's never going to fulfill his potential. His dreams will never come true. He's been so close he can smell them but they're taken away by the fact that youth doesn't give him the respect that he deserved—one youth (Peter Pan) in particular."

The actor is returning as Lucius Malfoy in the coming "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In his self-deprecating British wit, Isaacs declares, "I can be a pretty rotten actor, I'm sure you know. You've seen a number of movies where I've been terrible. But when my role is written well, my performance also does it itself."

Isaacs' best reviews are for his evil of all villains, Col. Tavington, in "The Patriot," which Mel Gibson directed and starred in.

"You should see the parts that I have refused," he says. "Just because I've done 'The Patriot,' I've been offered similar roles but they're always moronic, with the characters having the IQ of a shrimp. They're always holding a gun to a hero's child for no reason at all. Then they get trapped by somebody standing on their foot."

'Peter' and 'Potter'

Isaacs gets to display his acting smarts to the full hilt in "Peter Pan," which is about the children Wendy, John and Michael of the Darling family who are taken by Peter Pan to Neverland, where a battle with the baaaad Hook is ensuing.

Asked to compare his roles in this movie and in the "Harry Potter" series, Isaacs explains, "First of all, I get to play two characters in this movie (he also plays Mr. Darling, the children's father). My character in 'Harry Potter' is less complicated. He's a rather simple man. He has a single desire, to turn the world to the way it was and rid the world of Muggles. It's not very nice but it's very simple.

"Mr. Darling and Hook are more complex. Mr. Darling is terrified of the world, mostly terrified with what people might think or might say. He feels judged by everyone. Hook is also a very complicated man. So these two are more three-dimensional roles to grapple with."

Oscar-winning technology

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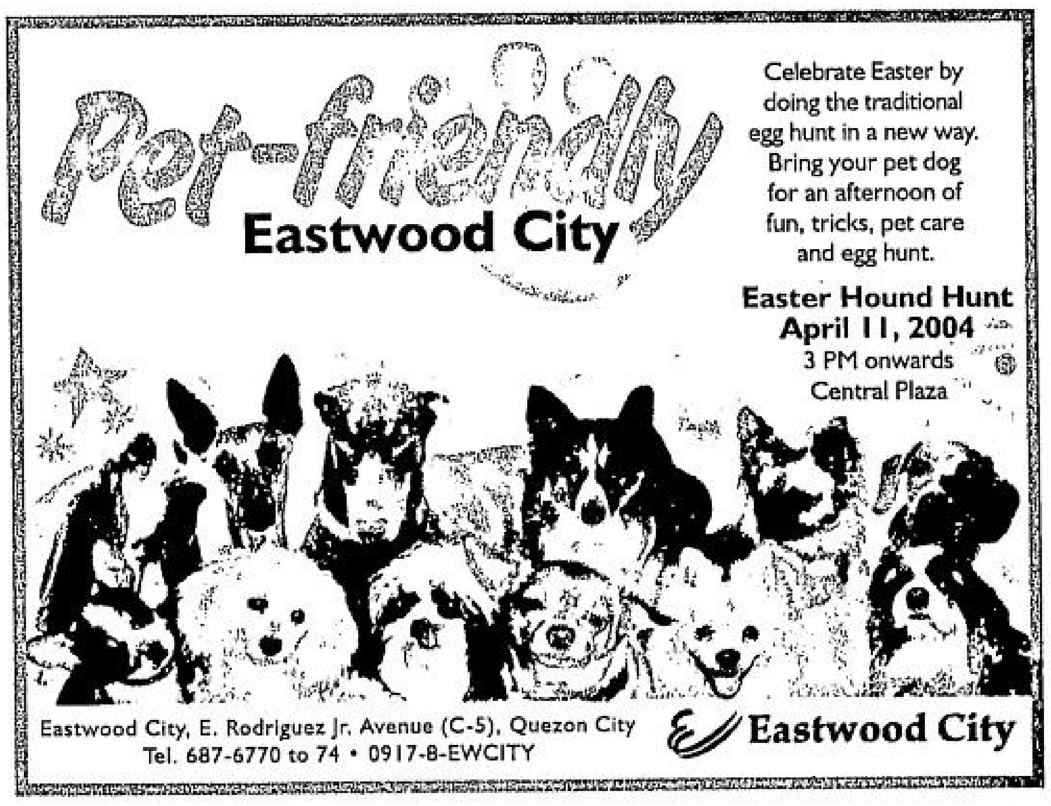
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TITLE	KEYWORDS
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Doesn't Really Matter	DIVA2
Rhythm Nation	DIVA3
That's The Way Love Goes	DIVA4
Let's Wait A While	DIVA5
Again	DIVA6
All For You	DIVA7
Just A Little While	DIVA10
My Baby	DIVA11
Thinkin' Bout My Ex	DIVA12

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Jason Isaacs is Hooked

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

ISAACS on Hook: He's a rather bitter, angry and melancholy man.

LOS ANGELES—"He's kind of a half Hannibal Lecter and half Liberace, isn't he?"

Jason Isaacs, shockingly pale in person after his turn as a swarthy, virile-looking Captain Hook in the movie "Peter Pan," jokes about his latest character portrayal onscreen.

"Once you put on the costume, the hook, the big hair and all that stuff, you look in the mirror and you know that you don't have to do very much," he says. "It's like Hook plays himself."

Devoid of the wig, the manly facial stubble, the velvet and silk costumes and the menacing-looking hook for a hand, Isaacs, wearing a black t-shirt over his very lean frame, couldn't be the man who plays Captain Hook with such machismo. But that's what good acting and costume design (by three-time Oscar nominee Janet Patterson) can do.

All it took to play the sly captain in this lavish, faithful film version of J.M. Barrie's beloved play that debuted 100 years ago, was "a couple of hours in the morning," Isaacs claims. "That's all it took to get ready for the full-on hysteria of the day's activity. By that time, I was already frustrated, sitting still on a chair for that long putting on of these layers and layers of costume and slapping on makeup.

"Then you get yanked up mid-air and given a giant wedgie (a tug at the underpants). It's incredibly uncomfortable and painful," he laughs.

'Pretty rotten actor'

Isaacs says of his role that has been interpreted in cartoon and pantomime: "It is written as a very rich, fully realized character. He's a rather bitter, angry and melancholy man. He's in physical pain all day long. He's reminded that he's been humiliated by this boy (Peter Pan).

"He's terrified of getting old. He hates what he sees in the mirror mostly because he realizes he's never going to fulfill his potential. His dreams will never come true. He's been so close he can smell them but they're taken away by the fact that youth doesn't give him the respect that he deserved—one youth (Peter Pan) in particular."

The actor is returning as Lucius Malfoy in the coming "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In his self-deprecating British wit, Isaacs declares, "I can be a pretty rotten actor, I'm sure you know. You've seen a number of movies where I've been terrible. But when my role is written well, my performance also does it itself."

Isaacs' best reviews are for his evil of all villains, Col. Tavington, in "The Patriot," which Mel Gibson directed and starred in.

"You should see the parts that I have refused," he says. "Just because I've done 'The Patriot,' I've been offered similar roles but they're always moronic, with the characters having the IQ of a shrimp. They're always holding a gun to a hero's child for no reason at all. Then they get trapped by somebody standing on their foot."

'Peter' and 'Potter'

Isaacs gets to display his acting smarts to the full hilt in "Peter Pan," which is about the children Wendy, John and Michael of the Darling family who are taken by Peter Pan to Neverland, where a battle with the baaaad Hook is ensuing.

Asked to compare his roles in this movie and in the "Harry Potter" series, Isaacs explains, "First of all, I get to play two characters in this movie (he also plays Mr. Darling, the children's father). My character in 'Harry Potter' is less complicated. He's a rather simple man. He has a single desire, to turn the world to the way it was and rid the world of Muggles. It's not very nice but it's very simple.

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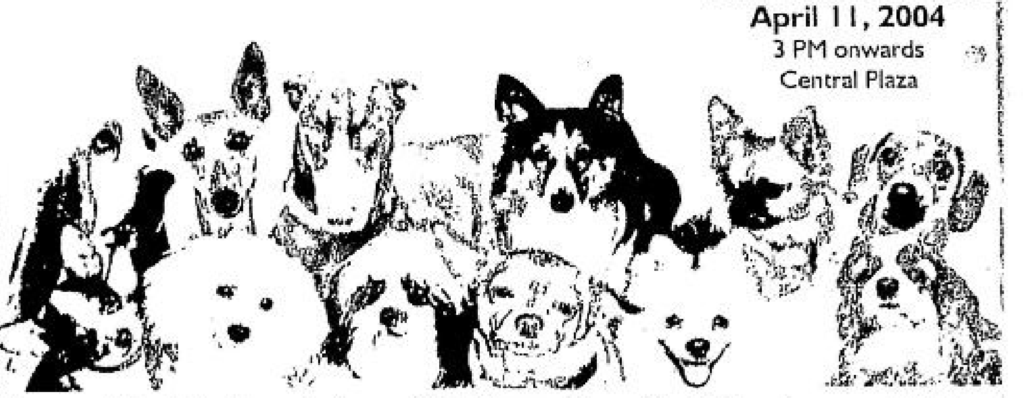

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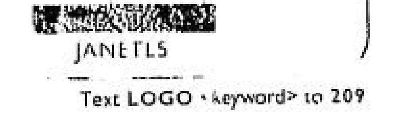

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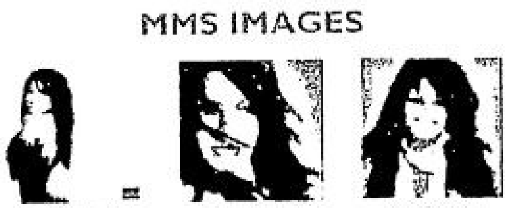

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LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55
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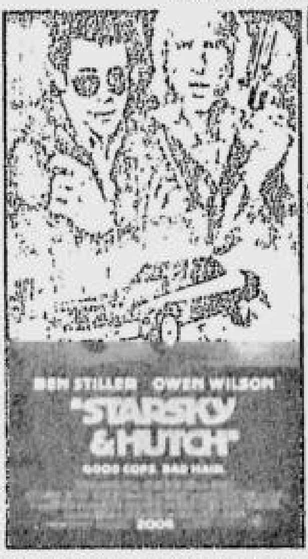

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Glorious thoughts for the show . . .

From page C2-4

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Maybe, some day.

Entertainment agencies . . .

From page C2-3

She said the decision was "tantamount to reneging on the commitments (Tesda officials) made before entertainment industry representatives."

The statement said the entertainment industry sees that decision as "a cover-up for Tesda's failure to act decisively on the problem of Artist Record Book (ARB) backlog" and for its failure "to carry through the investigation of irregularities.

"Regionalization is unacceptable to the industry," declared Buan. "This will never guarantee a streamlined, transparent and trouble-free system."

Calca vowed to mount a series of protest rallies at the Department of Labor and Employment and Malacañang, "with the support of owners of licensed agencies and training centers and talent managers," the statement added.

Entertainment agencies slam 'dangerous' Tesda decision

SHOW STOPPER

THE CONFEDERATED Associations of Licensed Entertainment Agencies (Calea), whose members are authorized to deploy talents to Japan, are protesting the decision of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to regionalize the skills assessment of the Overseas Performing Artists (OPA) operation unit.

The decision of Tesda director general Alcestis Guiang was done without consulting the leaders of the entertainment industry, Calea president Christie Gatchalian-Buan said in a statement.

Buan noted that regionalizing the OPA skills assessment function would perpetuate corruption and even make it more organized and wider. She called the decision "dangerous" and said it would "surely pave the way for the deployment of unqualified persons who would eventually put the industry in the hands of unscrupulous and illegal practitioners."

ENTERTAINMENT/ C2-2

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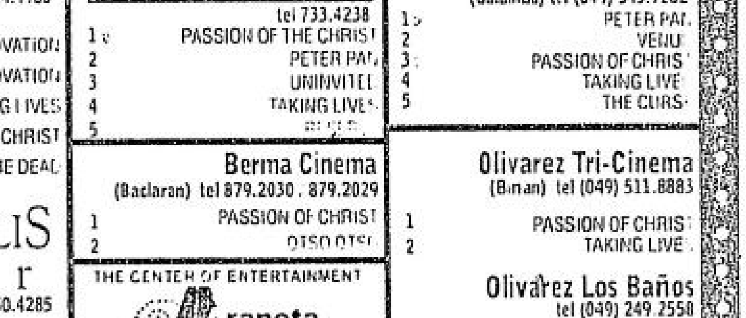

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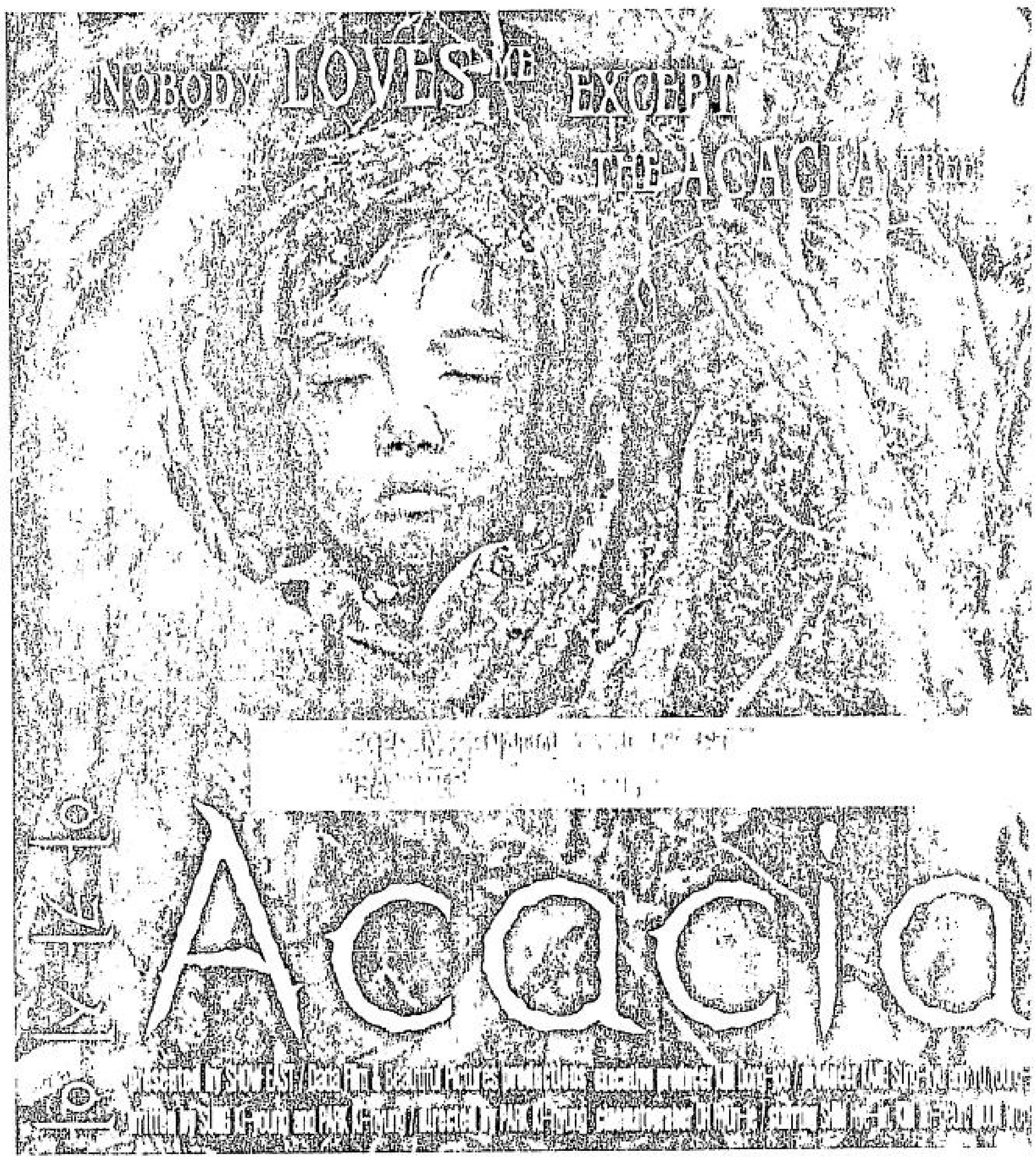
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Glorious thoughts for the show biz scene

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

THIS being a day for glorious thoughts, let me get into what, for me, would make for a glorious scenario.

Some day, reporters and editors, and photographers and columnists covering the show-business scene shall be given the same treatment—in space, position, pay, and that catch-all: respect—that journalists covering other beats are given, not even because they kill themselves for it but because it comes with the territory.

This way, the worst political reporter becomes equal to the worst entertainment reporter, as they are in fact.

That entertainment reporters not be shunted to the leftover pages of publications, or become afterthoughts to television programs, and stop being made to play reliever, clown, and coffee break just so the rest of the ponderous, "serious" writing becomes bearable.

This way, the worthiest theater offering dealing with the complex in the ordinary man is deemed equal to the worthiest party stand on community service, as it truly is.

That the same rigor to which the entire media profession submits—fact-checking and sourcing, accuracy of quotes and proper context, fairness and intelligence, and, yes, no envelopes—be made to apply to entertainment reporting.

This way, the entertainment press returns once more to the fold of the family of journalists, where it shall never again be seen as poor cousin, as it should never have been.

That entertainment be seen by media owners themselves as the whole richness of the art and culture scene—which includes, but is not alone defined by, movies and movie actors—even if, clearly enough, it is the latter that bring in the audience.

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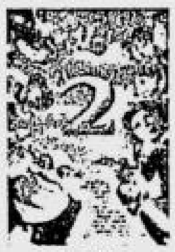
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

No more grainy image /D2

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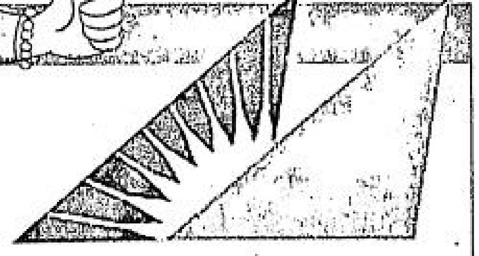

My Pal

GUSHING is something that I seldom do, but as I was telling my friends about this experience, I couldn't help it. "You're gushing," they said. I still am. Easter is a time of renewal and I'm happy to say I have renewed faith in the Philippine Air Lines.

My kids and I were booked on a Pal flight straight to Melbourne one Saturday very early in February. Unfortunately, the travel agent got agitated when on Friday morning I still didn't have my visa to Australia, so she cancelled our Pal reservations. Although my visa did get issued late Friday afternoon, the earliest flight we could now take to Melbourne was on Sunday via Hong Kong, where we would have to wait for five hours for the connecting flight. I had wanted to get to Melbourne ASAP to have more time with my two sisters who lived there with their families so I agreed, but I was also very apprehensive because my daughter and I would be traveling with my son who is autistic.

Not that this would be his first trip. Gabriel had been to Bohol, Boracay, Banaue, Singapore and Hong Kong. Our family made the decision shortly after his diagnosis with autism that we would take him along wherever we would go as a family. As heroic as that may sound, the fact is we still feel uneasy every time we travel with Gabriel. While the typical passenger may think of flying as wafting on a breeze, it is pretty hard to make my son visualize the experience as poetically. It is hard to make him visualize anything, period.

But I was more worried about the five-hour wait in a busy airport. We were flying economy and couldn't expect paradise, but I thought the airline must have some kind of provision for passengers with disabilities. I asked the airline's PR person if it was possible to wait in their business class lounge. After several back and forth text messages, I was told it could not be done. "Just tell me this, then," I said over the phone. "Where do you make travelers with disabilities wait for five hours?" No reply.

I told my brother Conrad about the situation. Some other airline must have better customer service than that, he said and promised to look for help elsewhere. Finally, late afternoon on Saturday, I got a text message from a Pal executive asking me for our flight details. For whatever it was worth, I sent him the information.

On Sunday when the plane landed at the HK airport, we stayed in our seats until everyone else had disembarked. Well, why hurry when you have five hours to kill? Little did we know that waiting for us outside the plane were two gentlemen from Pal. They were holding a card with my name on it. "We have instructions to take care of you," one of the guys said with a smile. "We're going to take you to our business lounge where you can wait until it's time for you to board your flight to Melbourne." They took our bags and led us to their nifty lounge, which they shared with other airlines. There my son ate some cookies and chips from the snack buffet, happily watched cable TV and behaved superbly. Four hours later our two pals came back to help us catch our flight to Melbourne and didn't leave us until we were safely in our seats.

The idea behind an airline lounge is to make waiting for your flight as pleasant as possible, but this is a luxury presented only to folks who pay the price of a business or first class ticket. To expect service of this kind to be extended to people with disabilities is a lot like asking for iced water in hell. Oh but you get used to the apathy when you have a special child. You get so used to it you stop expecting acts of grace from complete strangers. So you can imagine how touched I was that Pal came to our rescue.

This was not the first time we got extra commendable service from Pal. When Gabriel was much younger, the whole family came home from California for good. We were not sure how being locked with hundreds of passengers in a tube that flies above the ground would affect Gabriel so we heeded what the doctor advised. We gave him medicine to knock him out. However, he woke up before we could land in Manila and made quite a scene when he realized he wasn't in his bed but was instead on a plane crowded with strangers who were watching TV. "Turn off the TV," he screamed. He kept crying even as we tried to comfort him. The other passengers were obviously irritated by the crying.

A Pal steward came around and asked what they could do for us. We said maybe they could turn off the big TV for now, and sure enough, they did. With another steward, he went around our section of the plane asking passengers for understanding as we were traveling with a special child. A few days after we arrived in Manila, my husband wrote a letter to the Pal president commending the Pal personnel on our flight.

I'm sorry I didn't get to write the Pal president this time. I wrote this instead and, in case you haven't noticed, this is a fan letter.

CBF

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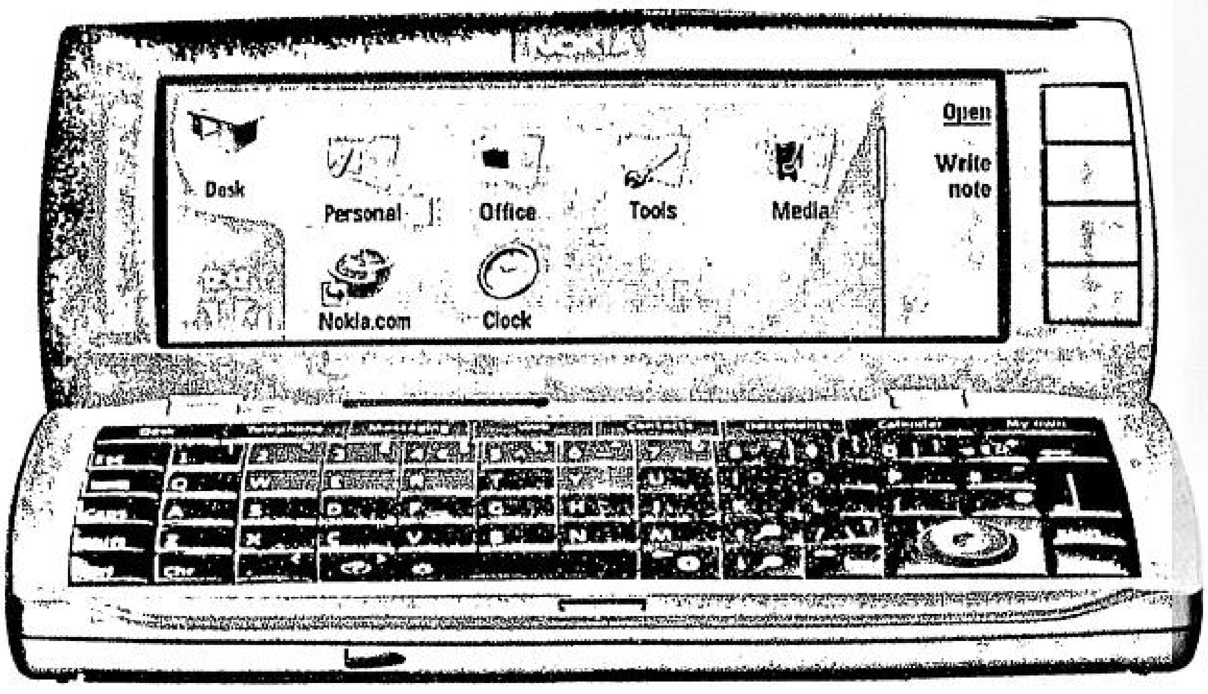
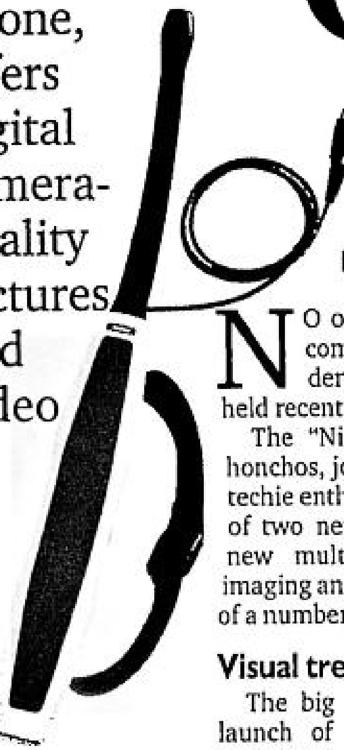


NOKIA 9500

ACTIVITY
Handsfree

Nokia's 7610, its first megapixel camera phone, offers digital camera-quality pictures and video

New hi-tech objects of desire



HEADREST
Handsfree

By Beia Formoso

NO one could have more passion for communication than Nokia, as evidenced by the Showcase Nokia 2004 held recently in Hong Kong.

The "Night of Passion" brought Nokia honchos, journalists from all over Asia, and techie enthusiasts together for the unveiling of two new mobile phones that highlight new multimedia features, especially in imaging and enterprise, and the introduction of a number of Nokia mobile enhancements.

Visual trend

The big event served as the worldwide launch of the Nokia 7610, Nokia's first megapixel camera phone. That's right—megapixel, meaning digital camera-quality pictures. The camera cell phone you have now probably has only about a 640 x 480 pixel resolution, hence the somewhat grainy images that flash on your screen.

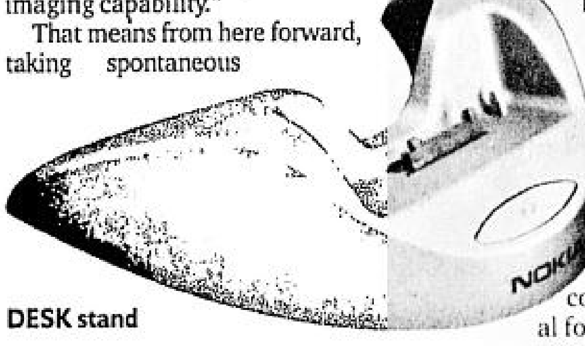
According to Urpo Karjalainen, senior vice president of Nokia Customer and Market Operations for Asia Pacific, "We have seen how communications turned visual last year. Over 200 operators around the world now provide MMS services to their customers. Camera phones sales exceeded that of digital still cameras in 2003. Camera phones will soon become the most prevalent image-capture device in the world."

An interesting statement, considering that digital cameras normally carry three megapixels or higher.

With Nokia 7610, however, the company isn't really trying to overtake the digital camera arena, merely giving consumers another option, one that is more affordable price-wise.

Tyler McGee, vice president for sales, South East Asia Pacific, says Nokia 7610 makes it competitive for consumers "to purchase a mobile phone with imaging capability."

That means from here forward, taking spontaneous print-quality pictures no longer requires a separate camera, since your megapixel camera is now built into your phone.



DESK stand

"You carry this with you wherever you go. In theory, you don't always take a digital camera with you unless you're going to a wedding or birthday party or some event that you know that you need it. Now you get to capture the moment, share that with loved ones and friends via MMS or by actually downloading that picture to a printer and getting it copied," says McGee.

The megapixel (1152 x 864) camera features a high-quality lens, 4x digital zoom, a self-timer and a night mode to capture images in low-light conditions. The 65,000-color screen is ideal for viewing still images and watching real-time video streaming using the built-in RealOne mobile player.

Short films

But Nokia 7610 users can do more than take pictures—they can create short films or even music videos of up to 10 minutes. By using the Movie Director application, you can, for the first time, turn video clips shot with the cell phone into personal movies by adding special effects such as music, text, new colors or moving objects.

The feature automatically combines multiple video clips into a single video vignette, or optimizes the edited videos for MMS sending.

A great plus is that the phone can be connected directly to your computer because it comes with a USB cable. Other key features include rich Multimedia Messaging, e-mail, RealOne mobile player with MP3/AAC music playback, True Tone and 48-polyphonic ringing tone support, HTML Internet browser, 72MB of expandable memory (8MB + 64 MB reduced-size MultiMediaCard), Bluetooth connectivity and support for Java technology.

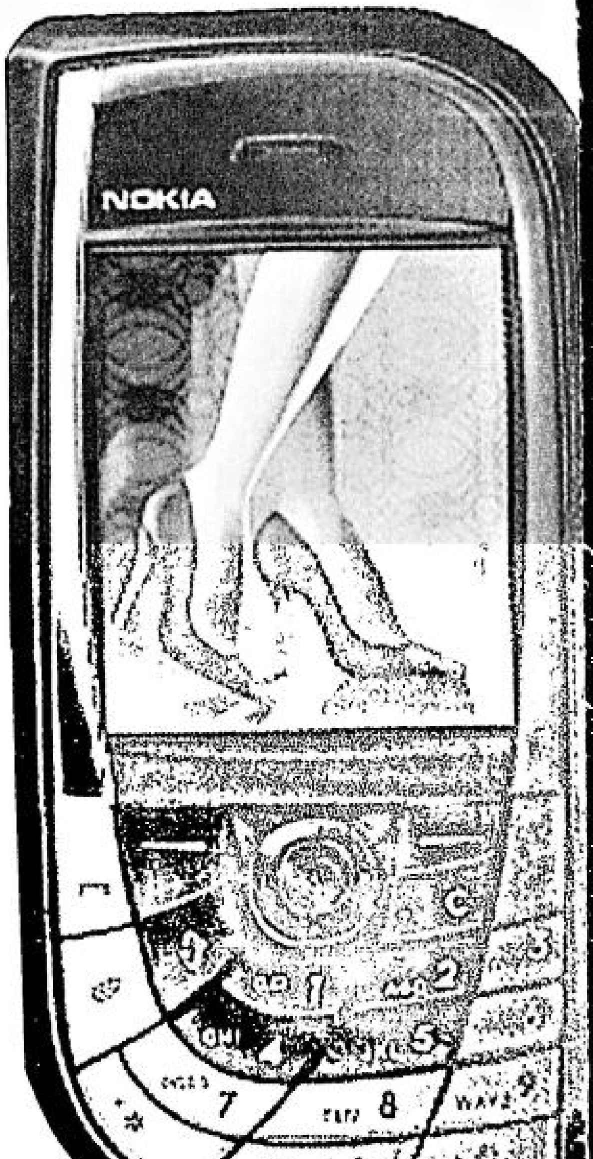
Bottomline: It's time to toss out your big, bulky camera cell phone with grainy pictures because the Nokia 7610 will be available in the second quarter of 2004.

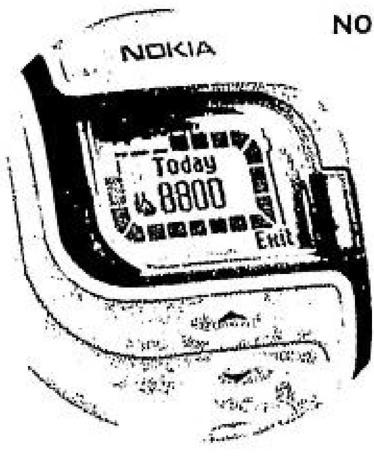
Not to be overlooked was the Asian launch of the Nokia 9500 Communicator, one of the first cellular devices in the market designed to meet the demands of corporate IT departments for customization, manageability and security.

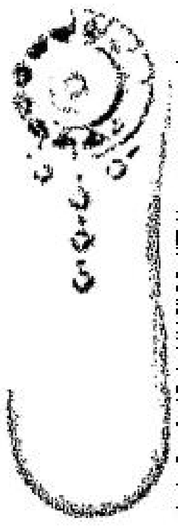
Also presented were numerous mobile enhancements—new devices that offer innovative ways to stay connected, store digital content, and even help you get physically fit.

Stay active with the Nokia Activity Handsfree HF-2, a smart device with a built-in speaker and microphone that enables you to chat with a friend or listen to music from your mobile phone while cycling or jogging, and acts as a protective carrying case for your cell phone against the dust, splashes and bumps that you may face during wild adventures. It has a built-in flashlight and can be attached to a bicycle or a backpack.

The Nokia Fitness Monitor is a tool for tracking activity level and monitoring calorie consumption which snaps conveniently onto







NOKIA 7610 (top), Fitness Monit (left), Imag Album (bottom)

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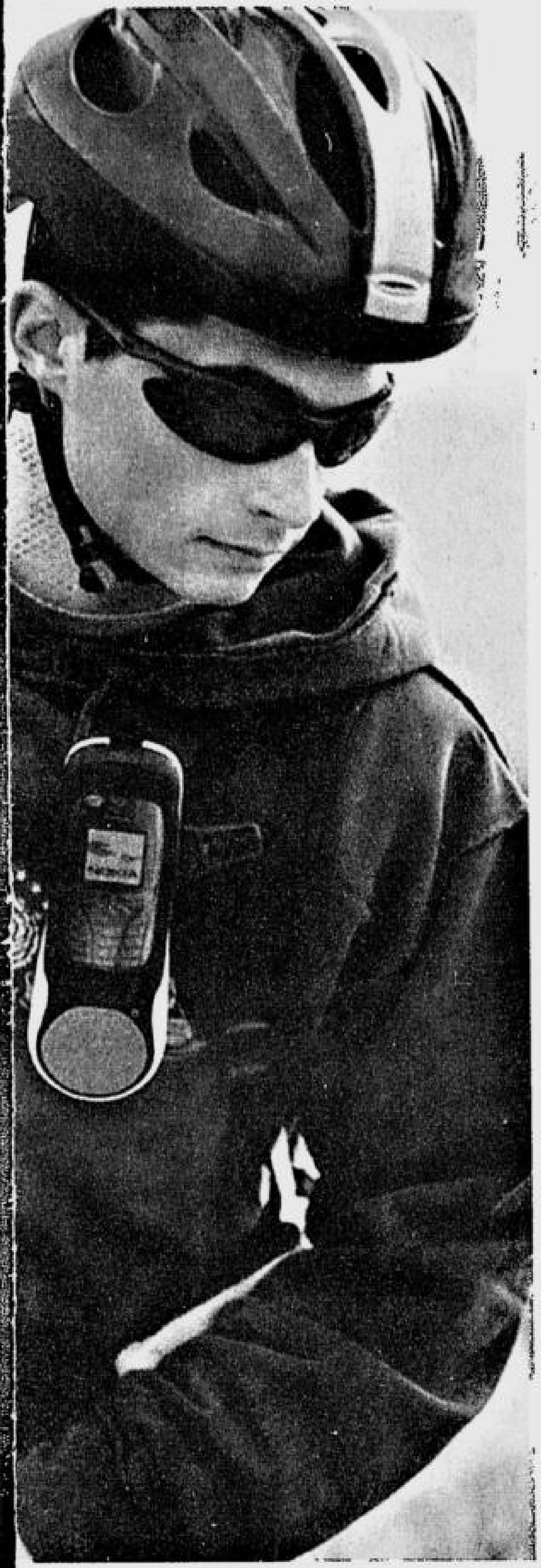

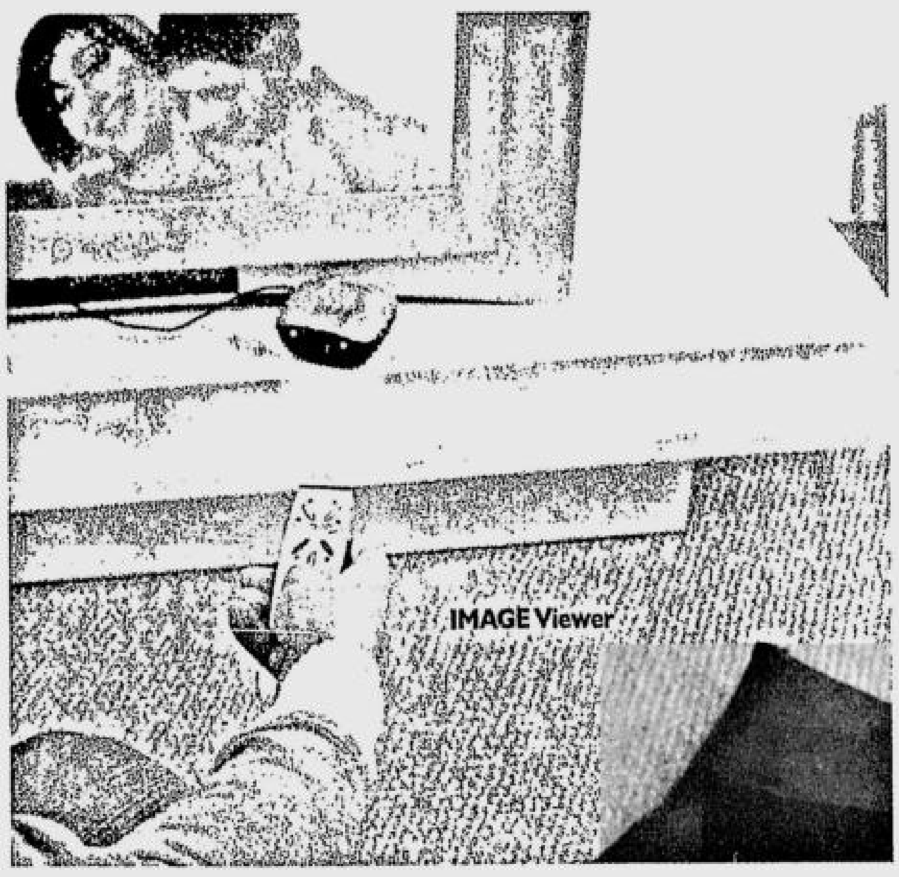

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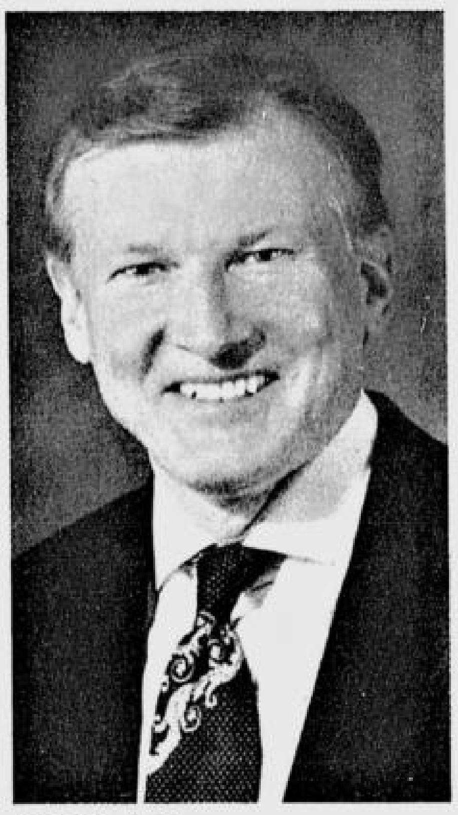
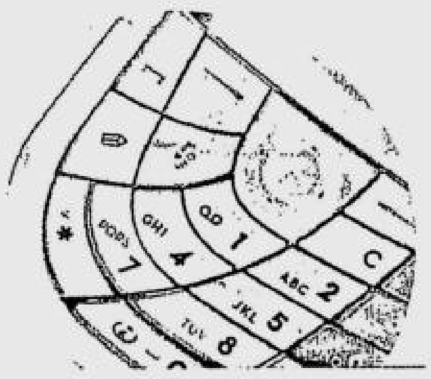


URPO Karjalainen



your waistband or belt. This gadget is excellent for people who want more accurate data on workouts or everyday activities.

Enriched experience

Both the Nokia Image Album and Nokia Image Viewer SU-5 bring an enriched visual experience to consumers. The former has a 20 GB hard disk drive that stores digital images, video clips and messages which the user can view, share, organize and edit on a TV screen using a remote control. The latter, meanwhile, is a portable device that can be connected to a TV or video projector and displays pictures either as single images or in a slideshow.

The Nokia Advanced Car Kit CK-7W makes it possible for drivers to stay safe while operating their cell phones. It features a remote control button which can be placed near the stick-shift or the steering wheel for taking calls and activating voice dialing, redialing and volume control.

Meanwhile, the lightweight Nokia Headrest Handsfree BHF-3 straps onto the headrest of the front seat of your car. That's all you need to do to start conversing while keeping your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

With the new numbers added to the Nokia line of cell phone models and new appliances to better your mobile experience at Showcase Nokia 2004, one wonders if there will ever be just one ultimate universal phone that has and does everything.

Says McGee, "All phones are universal phones today. Nokia makes the phones for the global market. At the end of the day, I think it comes back to your personal preference, which one suits your needs, your moods, how you feel—and for you, that's going to be your global phone."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1686, Series of 2004. See the "Charge & Drive" flyers for details.

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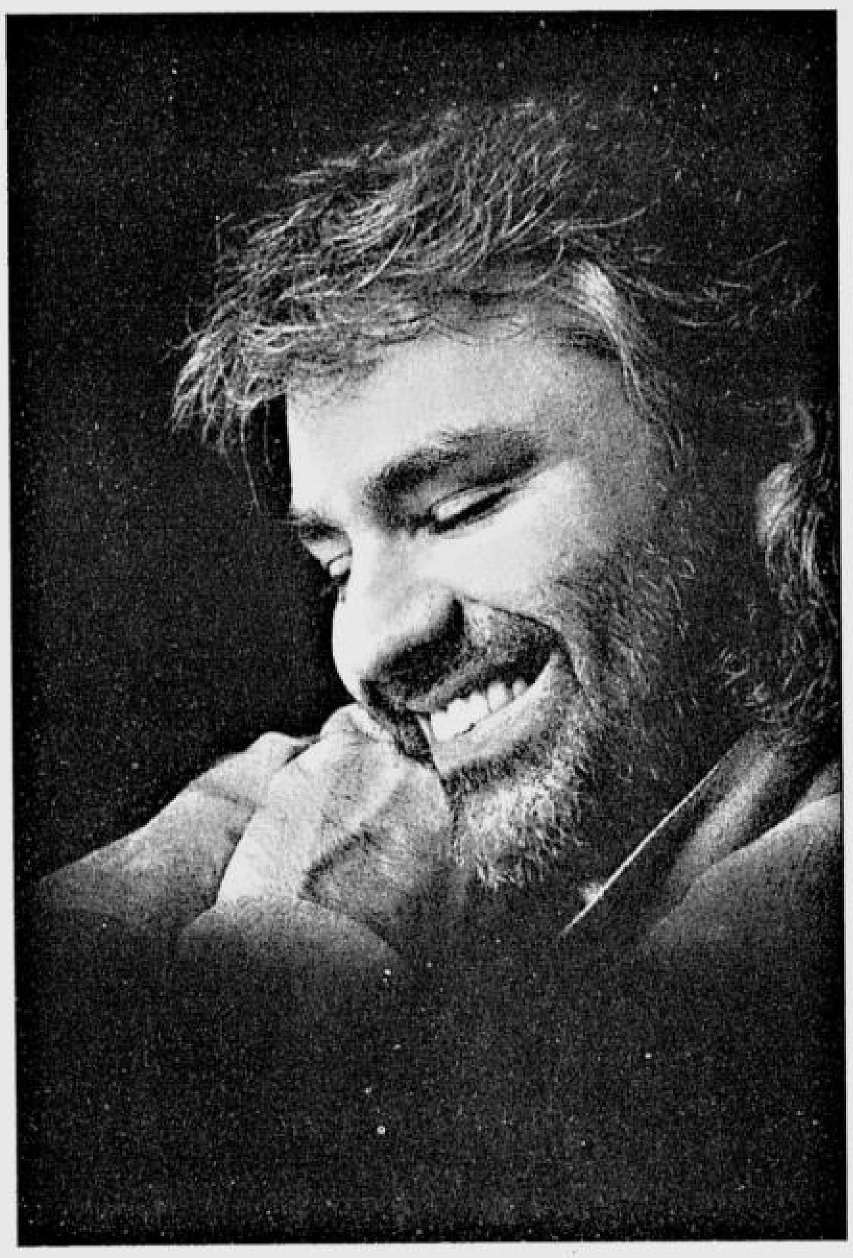

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FOR CURRENT PLATINUM MEMBERS:
Enjoy 25% discount on all tickets, purchased at the Mandarin Oriental Lobby Shop between April 7-25. Simply present your Globe Platinum card. By buying your tickets here, you qualify for an exclusive members' raffle: *to win two VIP seats and passes to join Signor Bocelli for a post-concert dinner. All members are also invited to join us for cocktails at the Coliseum's Green Gate (please bring your Platinum card).*

FOR NEW PLATINUM SUBSCRIBERS:
Subscribe to a new Platinum plan between April 7-25, for a chance to win one of 3 pairs of P10,000 tickets. Choose from three different monthly fees (P5,000, and the new P7,000 and P10,000 options), either in a customized G-Plan or the new G-Flex Platinum: fully consumable, including international roaming. Each Platinum plan also comes with a free, premium handset of your choice. For details and to subscribe, visit any Hub or Globe Telecom Business Center.

Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila, Araneta Coliseum, April 30, 8:00pm

For all Globe Plan subscribers: win one of 7 pairs of P25,000 tickets when you download Bocelli tones!

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For more downloads, go to myGlobe WAP site. Under What's New, click on DLOAD Station, then click on Bocelli Polytones.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1698, Series of 2004.

Titles	Keywords
O' Mare E tu	*OMareEt*
Sogno (Dream)	*Sogno*
E Sara ' settlement (Someone like you)	*ESara*
Miserere (live)	*Miserere*
Il Mistero Deli' Amore	*IlMistero*
Ave Maria	*Ave Maria*
Core n' Grato	*CorenGrato*
Il diavolo El' Angelo	*ILDiavolo*

Complete Mechanics for Globe Platinum Members:
1. Promo is open to all current Globe Platinum members.
2. Members must present their Globe Platinum card to receive a 25% discount on purchase of Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila concert tickets at the Lobby Shop of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. A maximum of four tickets can be purchased per Platinum member. The Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila concert will be on April 30, 2004 at the Araneta Coliseum. Concert ticket prices are P25,000, P20,000, P15,000, P10,000, P5,000.
3. Promo is valid from April 7-25, 2004.
4. Members who purchase discounted tickets are also entitled to a chance to win two "VIP seat" tickets and two passes to a post-concert dinner with Andrea Bocelli. There will only be one winner. Each concert ticket purchased under the discount promo is entitled to one electronic raffle entry.
5. Draw will be at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, Madison St. cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City on April 27 using an electronic randomizer containing the Handyphone numbers of the qualified Globe Platinum members. Globe Promo officials and DTI representative shall be present during the draw.
6. Winner shall receive a call from Globe through their Globe Handyphone. Winner will also be sent an offical notice through a courier service informing him that he has won together with procedures for claiming the prize.
7. Prizes will be delivered to the winner.
8. Prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash. Prizes are tax-free.
9. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communications including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from winning in the promotion.

Complete Mechanics for New Globe Platinum Subscribers:
1. Promo is open to anyone who purchases a Globe Platinum plan (Platinum Plan 5000, Platinum Plan 7000, Platinum Plan 10000, G-Flex 5000, G-Flex 7000, G-Flex 10000) at any Globe Telecom Business Center or Hub.
2. Promo is valid from April 7-25, 2004.
3. Those who purchase a Globe Platinum plan get the chance to win one of three pairs of P10,000 Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila concert tickets. Each new Platinum subscription is entitled to one electronic raffle entry.
4. Draw will be at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, Madison St. cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City on April 27 using an electronic randomizer containing the Handyphone numbers of new Globe Platinum subscribers qualified to join the promo. Globe Promo officials and DTI representative shall be present during the draw.
5. Winner shall receive a call from Globe through their Globe Handyphone. Winner will also be sent an official notice through a courier service informing him that he has won together with procedures for claiming the prize.
6. Prizes will be delivered to the winners.
7. Participants can only win once. Prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash.
8. Prizes are tax-free.
9. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communications including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from winning in the promotion

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1766, Series of 2004.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
For feedback, text us at (0919) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Meditation in a bustling mall

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Roger Carpio

WATER 'spewed' by these faux frogs, made by a Laguna artist, provides the sound required for a Zen garden.

A CORNER for meditation and relaxation is the latest addition to Ayala's Greenbelt park development.

Of all the theme gardens within the 12-hectare commercial center, Greenbelt 4's garden retreat is no doubt what many city folks need—a sanctuary where they can get rid of stress, recover from anger, recharge, or simply cool their heels.

Although the garden retreat is quite new and still getting the finishing touches, more and more people are discovering the place and making it their refuge from the pressures of city life.

Residents from nearby condominiums and villages, who are early risers, take a walk in the area to appreciate the plants and trees. Others pause at the Zen garden on their way to work to start their day right. And after office hours, strollers soak in the restful ambience of the garden aglow with night lights.

Greenbelt 4, by the way, opened only in November. It is where shops of luxury brands like Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Bulgari, Ferragamo, Burberry, Tod's, Bottega Veneta, YSL, Coach, Philippe Charriol and Prada are found.

Meditation garden

A quick tour of the garden reveals many spots where people can meditate. The Zen section, for example, has the typical complement of water sound and movement, rocks and pebbles, and well-tended plants.

Three small ponds have 11 varieties of water plants and garden frogs as accessories. The plants include lotus, waterlily, sagittaria, thalia and horsetail. Amid a composition of rocks and pebbles are *kamuning*, podocarpus, *tsaang-gubat* and different kinds of bamboo.

It was interesting to see for the first time low-growing *kamuning* plants, a pleasant variation from the usual tall shrubs in local gardens. The beautiful varieties are now abloom with star-like white flowers that fill the air with light fragrance.

Gardener's delight

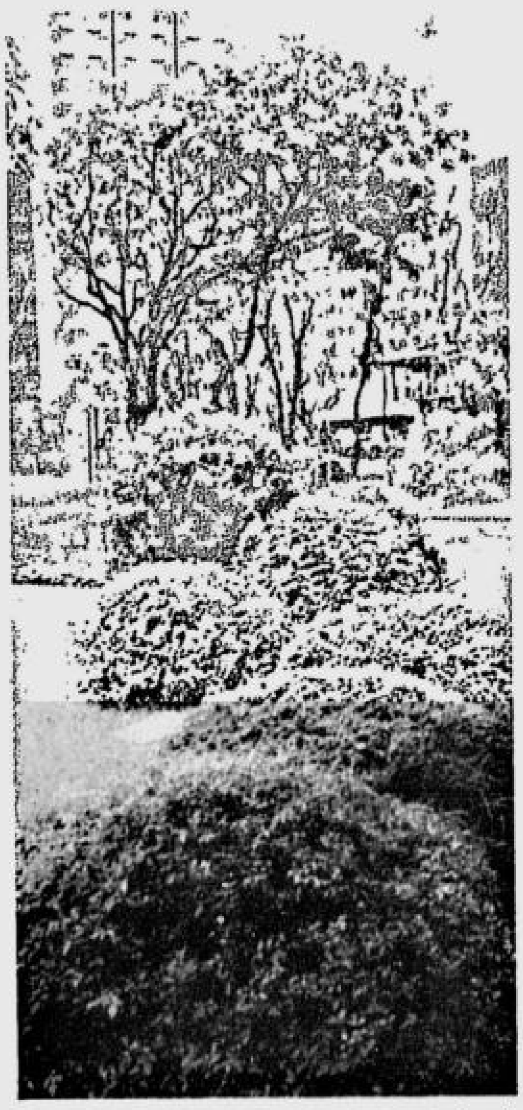
The Greenbelt trees offer points of interest, too, that may provide material for a future story. Suffice it to say that some of them date back to many years ago when there was a giant aviary in the area.

The *narra* and *ficus* are still there along with the native *dita*, mango, golden shower, and the golden cup tabebuia. The old trees may be described as the living roof of the meditation garden.

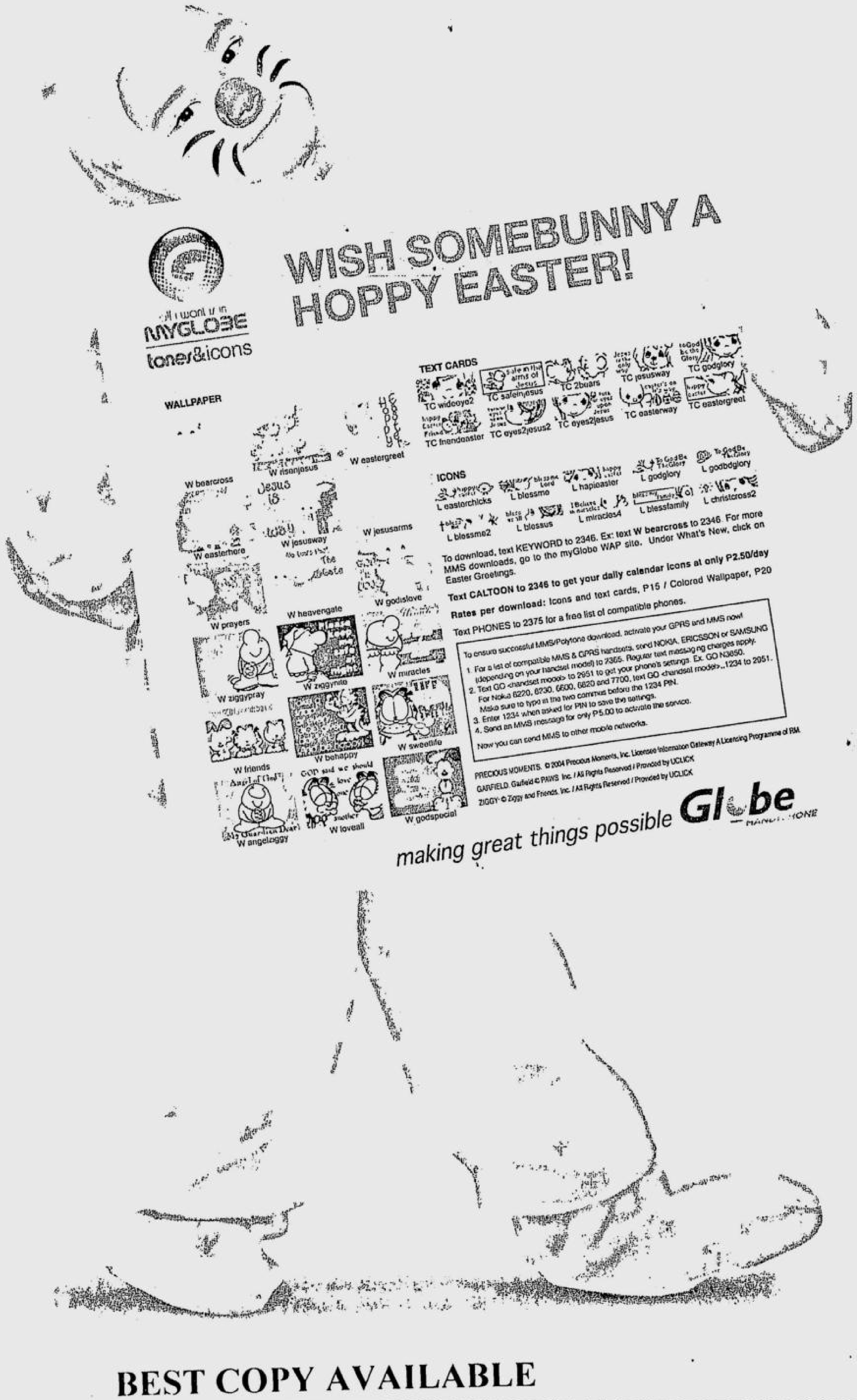
There's a lot more to stir the interest of plant lovers, the different varieties of bamboos, for one, that included the more popular Burmese, Benguet, Thai, Pole, Buddha's belly and variegated types.

Landscaper Ponce Veridiano has done wonders with the reedy bamboos, popularly called Benguet bamboos, turning them into virtual living fences that screen off the area from the rest of the place and providing much-needed privacy. The bamboos also hide unsightly structures and insulate the place

MEDITATION/ E2



A ROW of neatly trimmed bushes is the focal point of this section of Greenbelt's Zen garden.



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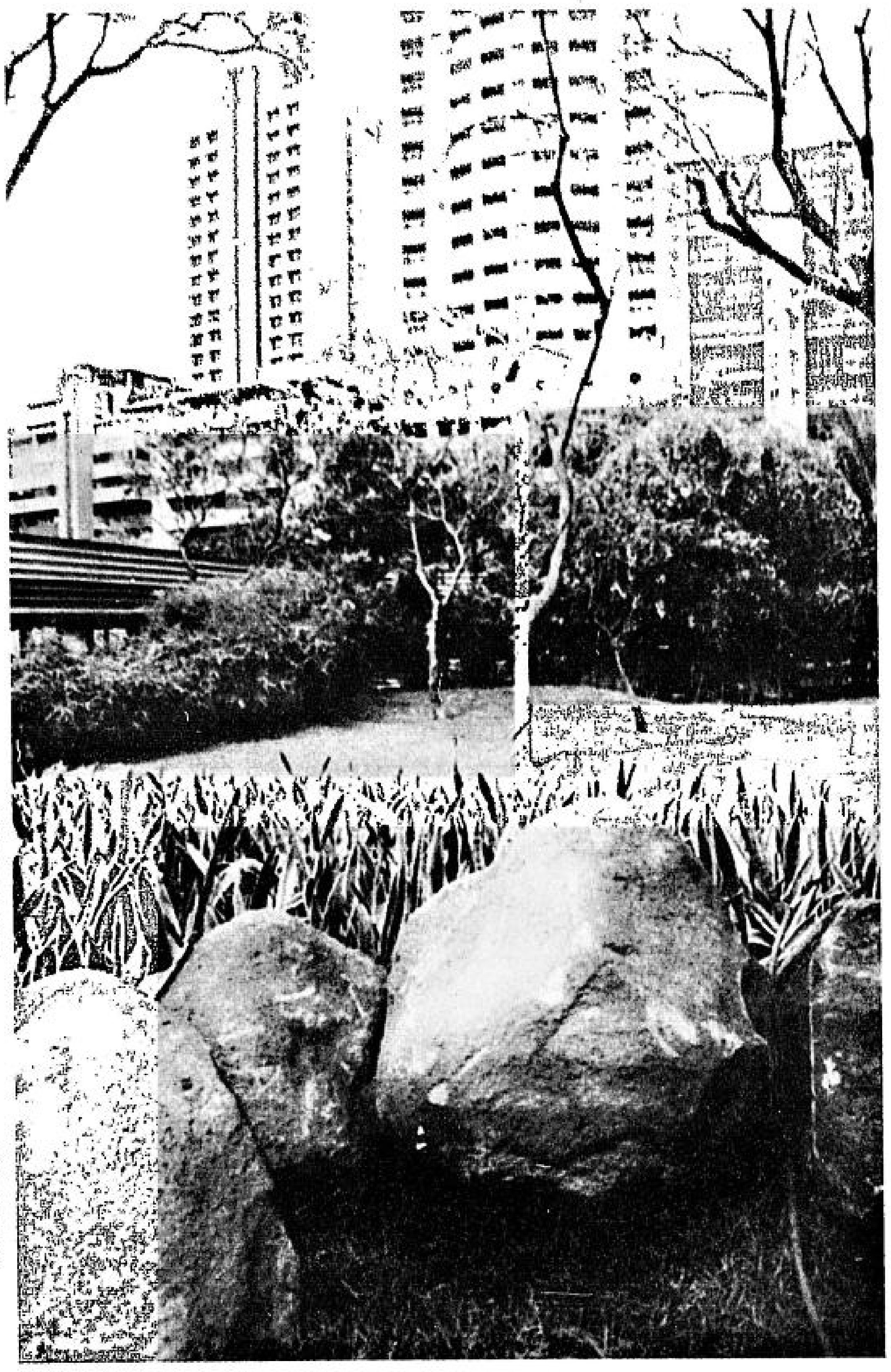


BOULDERS anchor this section of the garden.

NEATLY trimmed bushes add to the sense of tranquility in this section.

Meditation . . .

From page E1

from the street noise.

Gardeners in search of new ideas can learn a lot from the meditation garden and, for that matter, other sections of the Greenbelt gardens.

Theme gardens

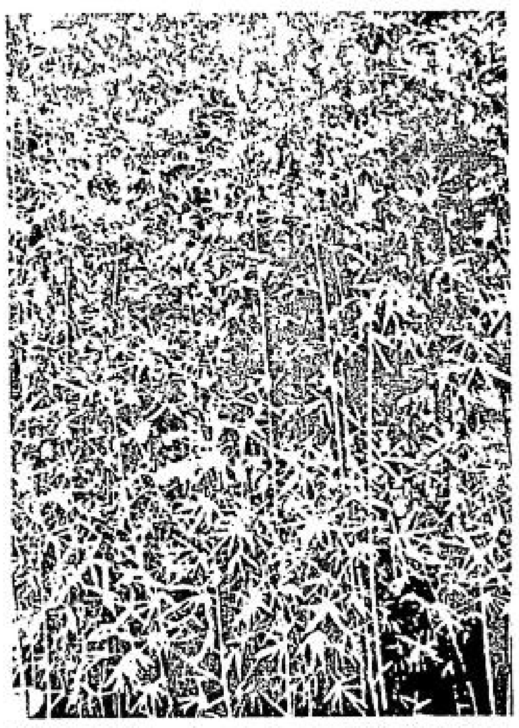
Greenbelt 2 has two garden themes, "Moon Beam" and "Scent," which put the focus on the play of lights and scents. Plants that supposedly reflect light during the day and night include five fingers, spathiphyllum and *kamuning*. The scented ones are *sampaguita, rosal, kamuning,* and *dama del dia*.

Greenbelt 3, owing to its bigger space, has several gardens showcasing a variety of plants. The Palm Garden has 20 different kinds of palms and cycads while Fern Garden has 10 fern species. The Color Garden has, among others, the popular coral tree, purple crumble, red ginger, white-striped ginger, red ti plant and purple *lantana*.

There's an Orchid Garden that has become a major attraction because of the eye-catching profusion of vanda and semi-terete flowers.

The Tropical Rainforest is the special place where age-old trees and palms of the old Greenbelt have been conserved. Tree doctors and experts were reportedly consulted on the "treatment" of ailing trees. Some had to be balled and transferred to another spot.

> Greenbelt has given harassed city dwellers a sanctuary where they can briefly retreat from the pressures of urban living



BENGUET bamboos help to muffle the noise of traffic and screen not-so-nice views.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0794 Series of 2004. See posters and flyers for promo details

Hippie chic,

LOCAL sophisticates are about to get the thrill of the season when Coach introduces the Limited Edition Poppy Collection.

Bright, vibrant, colorful, graphic and intricately detailed with suede and leather, this is the must-have collection for Spring 2004.

Spring brings flowers, and flowers bloom aplenty in the Poppy Collection's hippie chic look. Slouchy shapes, bold colors and pieced leathers capture the spirit of the season without compromising detail.

The Poppy Large Tote is all about craftsmanship and ingenuity, and celebrities Mandy Moore and Demi Moore know it. They love the look of pink petals and green leaves stitched together on a background of sumptuous suede, and so will you.

The bag's depth, which provides generous practicality, is sumptuously lined with rich fuchsia satin. A leather hangtag embossed with "Special Edition" means there is no mistaking its star status.

The Poppy Large Tote comes in Pink Body with Pink, Peridot, Ruby, Lilac, Moss and Fuschia floral design.

Also brimming with color is pretty Mena Suvari's choice: the versatile and fun Poppy Small Hobo, enhanced by Coach's icons brass Soho buckles.

Worn on the shoulder or swung from the arm, its graphic pattern adds a breath of spring to Mena's poutingly seductive look. Available in Pink, Peridot, Ruby, Lilac, Moss and Fuschia floral design.

Coach, with headquarters in New York, is a leading American marketer of fine accessories and gifts for women and men.

In the Philippines, Coach is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Coach stores are located at Greenbelt 4, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and 158 Designers' Blvd., Alabang Town Center.

MANDY Moore with a large Poppy tote

DEMI Moore with her favorite Coach bag

MENA Suvari with a Poppy Small Hobo

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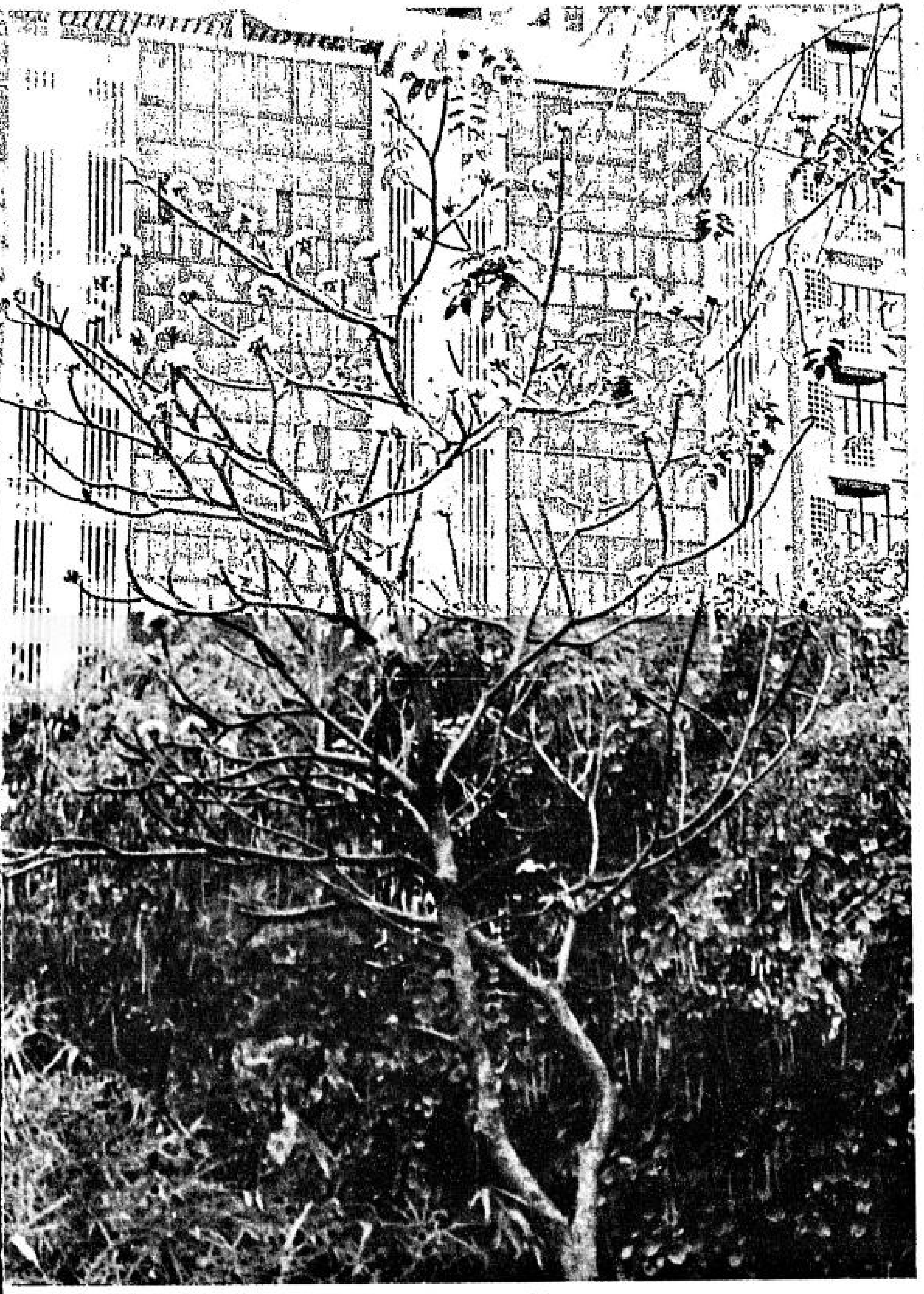

ITTLE surprise: a blooming tree with white, lightly scented flowers.

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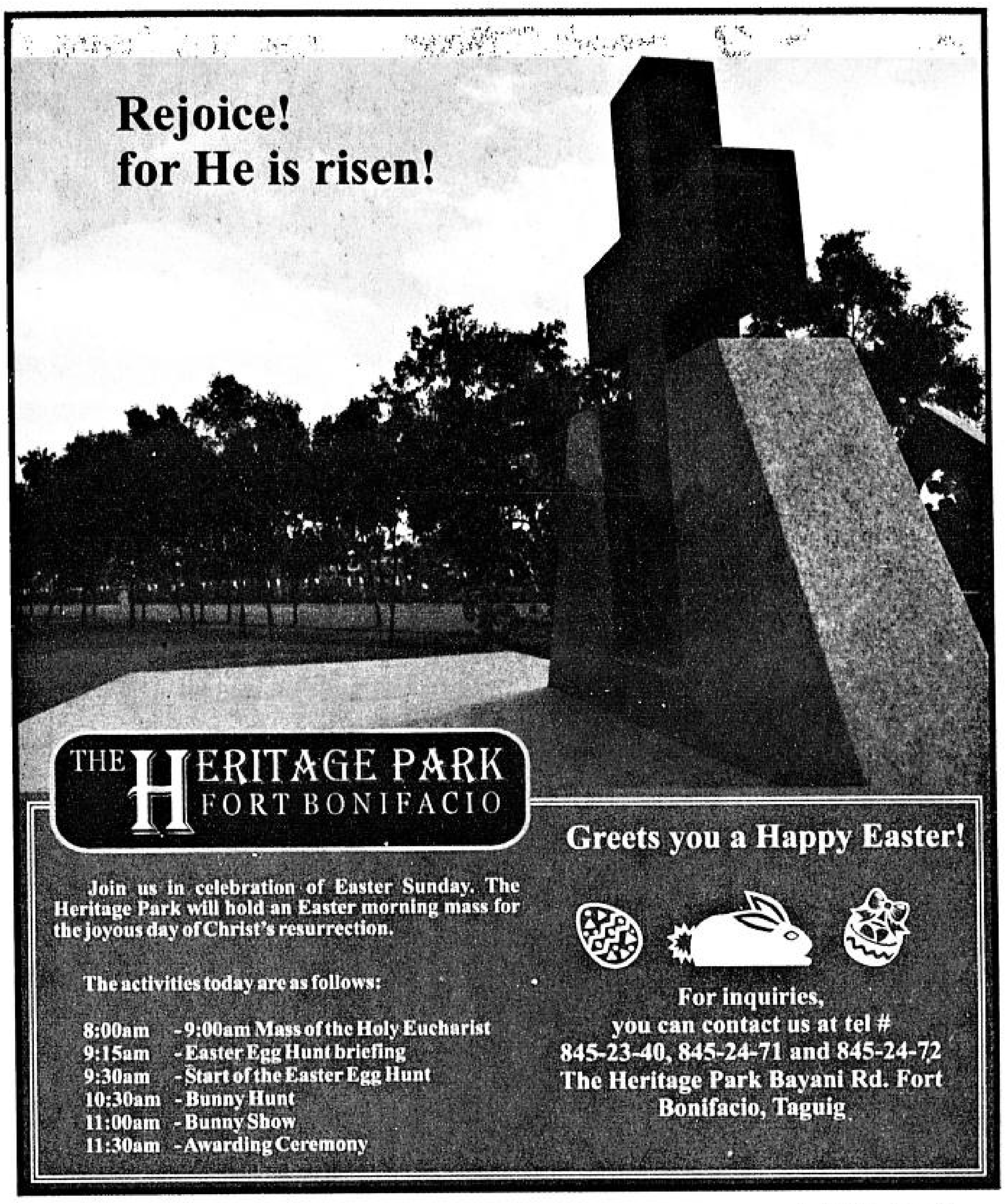
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8:00am -9:00am Mass of the Holy Eucharist
9:15am - Easter Egg Hunt briefing
9:30am - Start of the Easter Egg Hunt
10:30am - Bunny Hunt
11:00am - Bunny Show
11:30am - Awarding Ceremony

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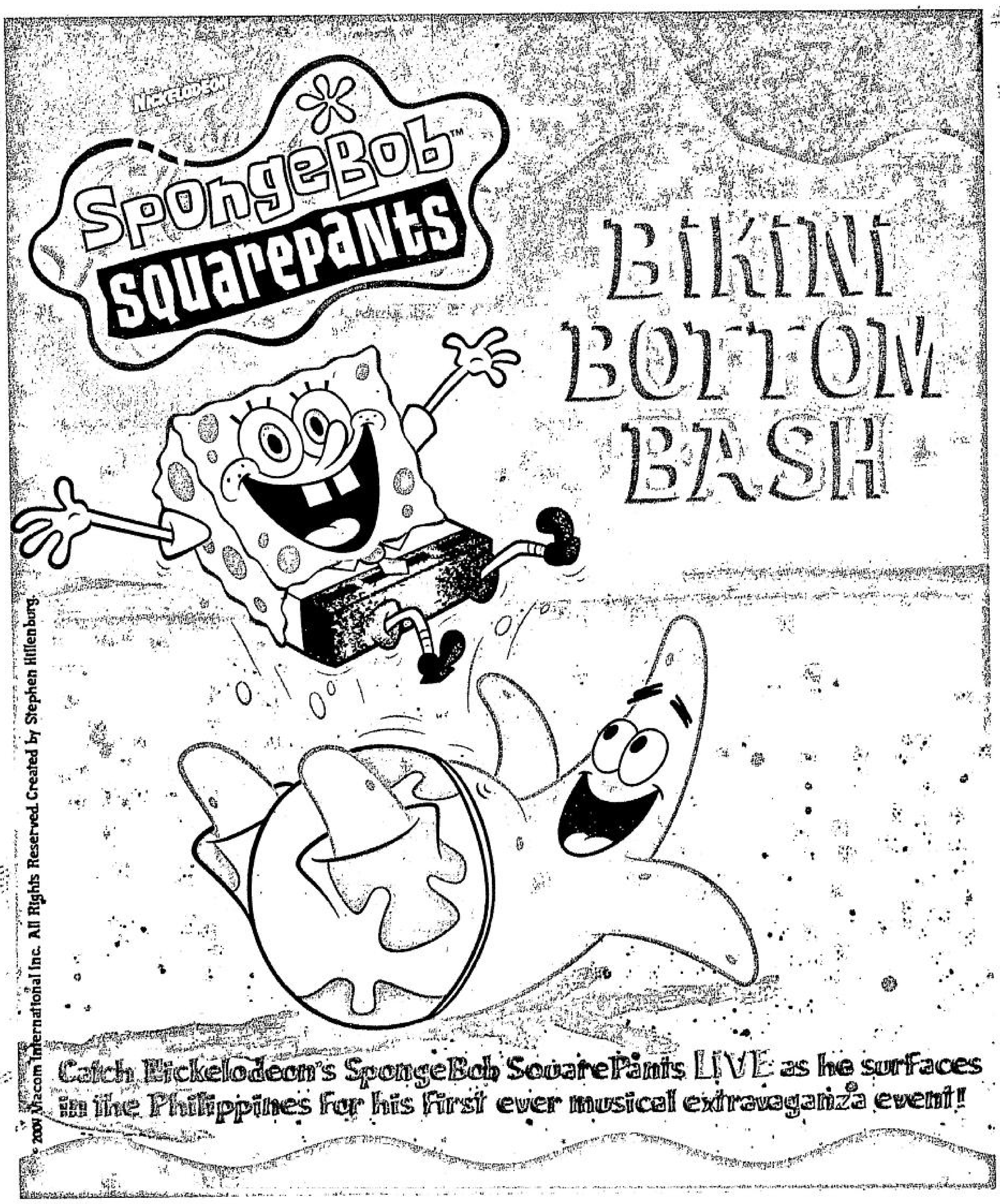
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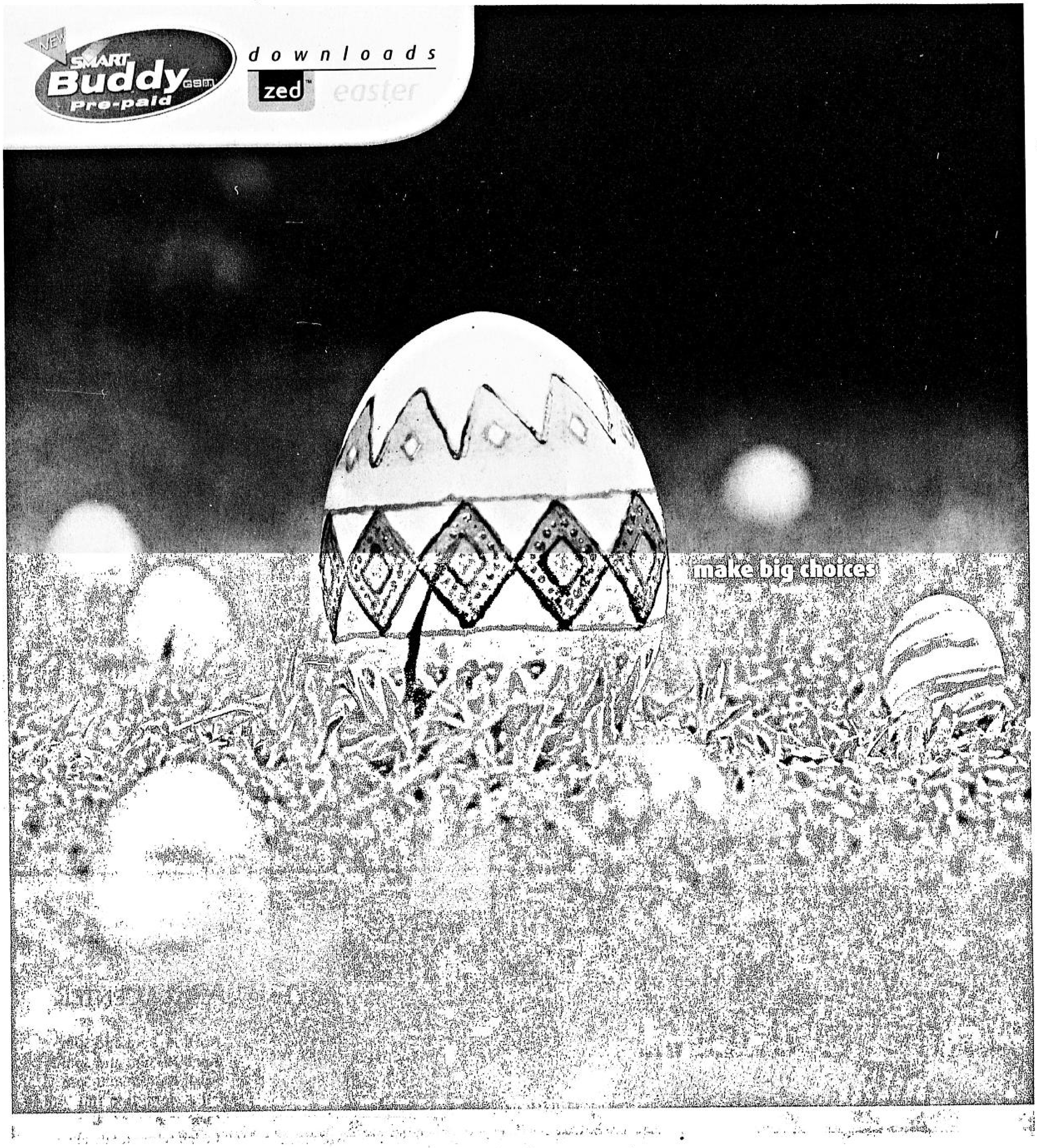

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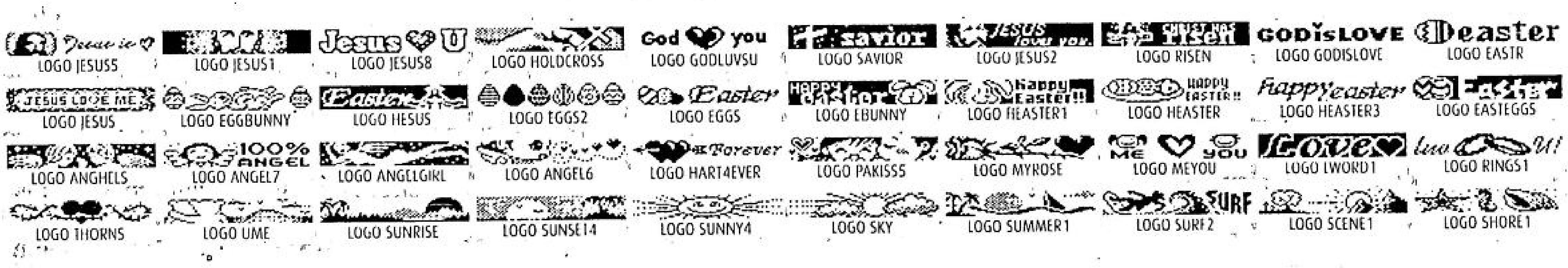
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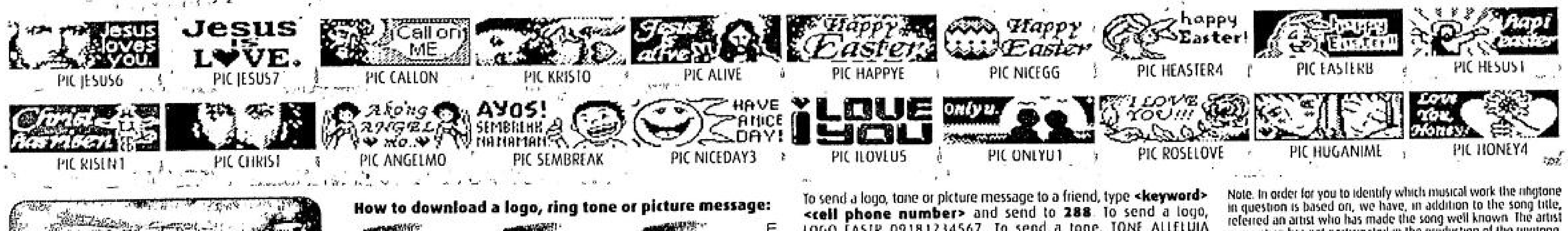
Jesus Loves Me	*William Bradberry*	**TONE JESUSLOVES**
God Is The Strength of My Heart	*Woman of Faith*	**TONE GODSTREN**
Alleluia	*Mozart*	**TONE ALLELUIA**
Give Thanks	*Don Moen*	**TONE GIVETKS**
I Will Be Here	*Sparrow Music*	**TONE IWILLBE1**
Faith of Our Fathers		**TONE FAITHOF**
People Need The Lord	*River Oaks Music*	**TONE PEOPLENEED**
Personal Jesus	*Depeche Mode*	**TONE PERSONAL**
Have A Little Faith In Me	*Mandy Moore*	**TONE FAITHIN**
I'm A Believer	*Smash Mouth*	**TONE IMABELIEVR**

Song title	Artist/Composer	
Love's Divine	*Seal*	**TONE LOVESDIV**
Awit Para Sa Kanya	*True Faith*	**TONE AWITPARA**
Bakit Pa Ba	*Jay-R*	**TONE BAKITPABA**
Kung Ako Na Lang Sana	*Bituin Escalante*	**TONE KUNGAKO**
Alam Kong Di Ako, Okey Lang	*Bayani Agbayani*	**TONE OKEYLANG**
Five Years	*Sugar Hiccup*	**TONE 5YEARS**
Rise & Fall	*Craig David*	**TONE RISEFALL**
Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE WERISLUV**
Stacey's Mom	*Fountains of Wayne*	**TONE STACYS**
I Miss You	*Blink 182*	**TONE MISS**

Song title	Artist/Composer	
Jaded	*Mest*	**TONE JADED**
Time Stands Still	*All American Rejects*	**TONE TIMESTAND**
Just A Little	*Play*	**TONE JUSTA**
Taylor	*Jack Johnson*	**TONE TAYLOR**
Simply Being Loved	*BT*	**TONE SIMPLYBE**
Love Is All That Matters	*Dianne Warren*	**TONE LUVMATR**
To Be With You	*Westlife*	**TONE 2BEWITH**
Friday I'm In Love	*The Cure*	**TONE FRIDAYIM**
Love Shack	*B52's*	**TONE LUVSHAK**
Kokomo	*Beach Boys*	**TONE KOKOMO**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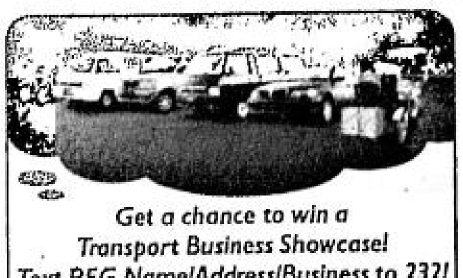

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1308 Series of 2004

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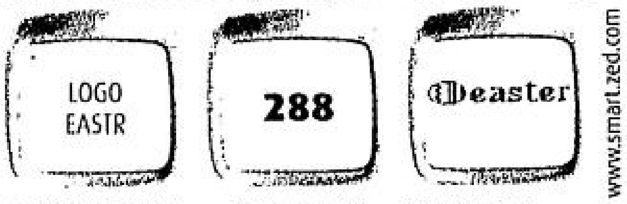

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To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy! Logos, ring tones and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers.** P 15.00 for every successful download. Download now!

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

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Sunday LifeStyle

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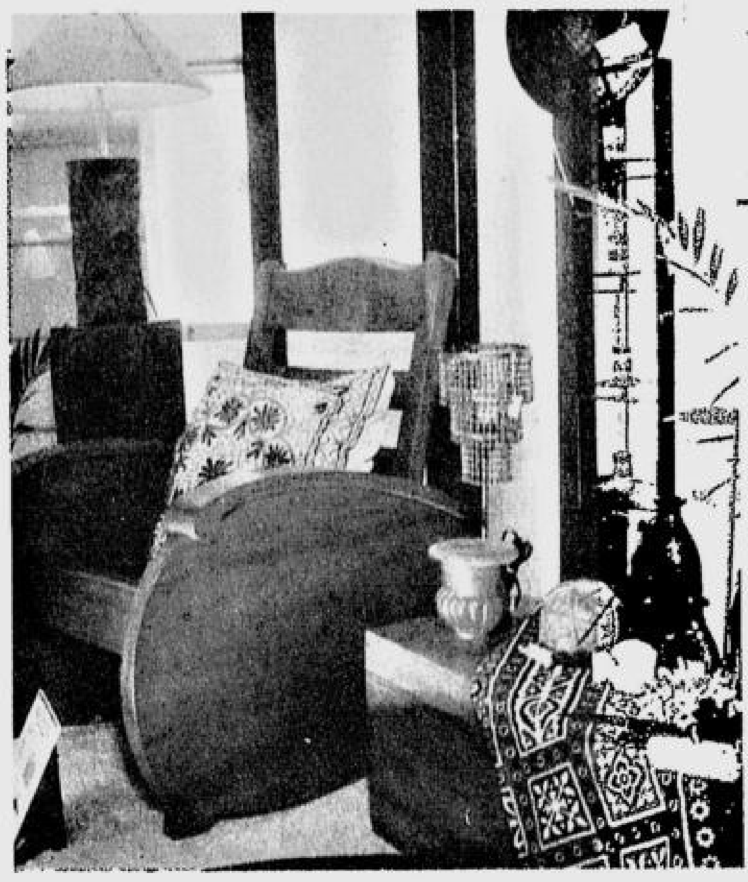

"PAG-BABASA" (A Reading Corner) (left); JIE Pambid, dean, PSID; Miriam Katigbak, SVP, Ayala Land Inc. and Commercial Centers group head; Nardy Aquino, director, PSID

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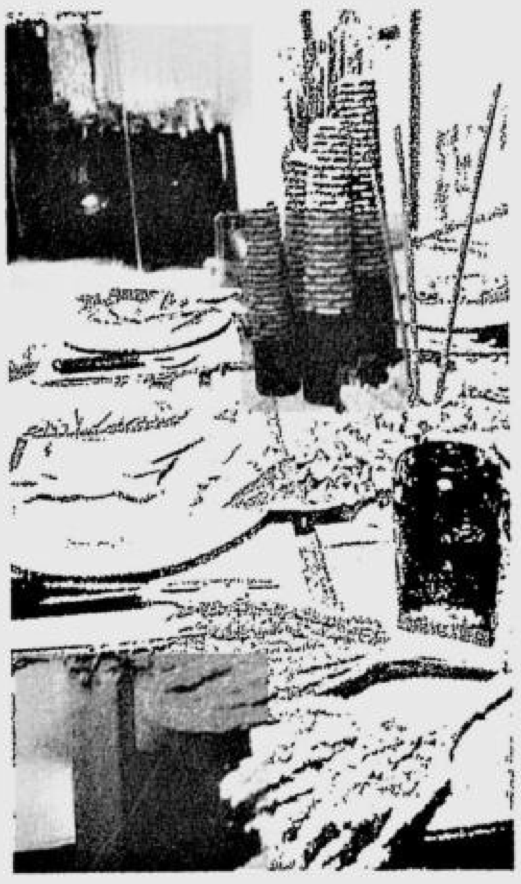
Highlighting Pinoy dwellings

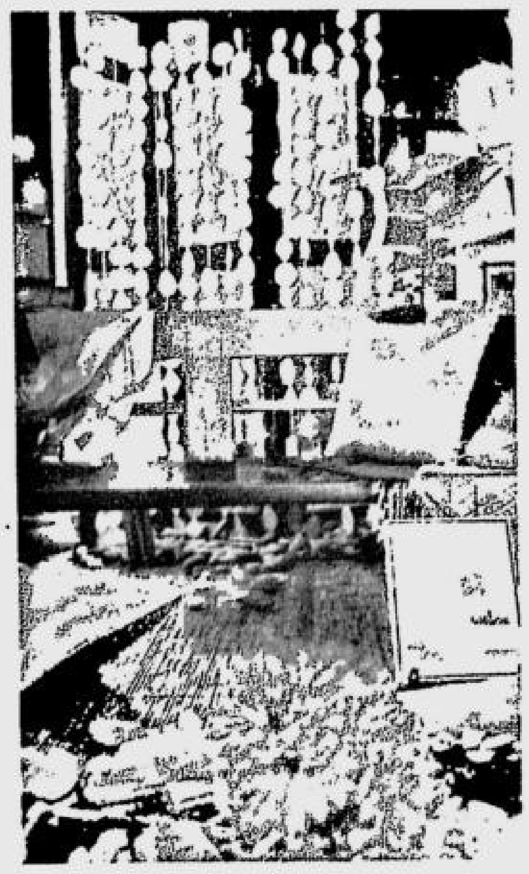
IN CELEBRATION of the 170th year of Ayala Corp., the members of the Advanced Class of The Philippine School of Interior Design 2004 present their creations at the World-Class Filipino Home Exhibit at the G/F and Homezone lobby of Glorietta 4.

The exhibit, which runs until April 12, features designs using indigenous materials that highlight different sections of a typical Filipino home, such as sitting lounge areas ("Pahingahan sa Hugis at Estilo"), contemplation area ("Semana Santa"), child's room ("Para Niños"), reading area ("Pag-babasa"), a master bedroom ("Bukang Liwayway"), dining areas ("Hapunan" and "Kain Na"), lounge ("Idlip"), meditation/prayer room ("Dambana), den/game room ("Libangan"), lanai ("Munting Paraiso") and conversation area/sala ("Kulay").

Ayala Center introduced an interesting twist to the exhibit by allowing the young designers to use, free of charge, items that came from the various shops located within Glorietta 4's Homezone. This enabled them to give full reign to their creativity, resulting in an impressive amount of detail in the showcased designs.



"HAPUNAN" (Dinner)



"MUNTING Paraiso" (A Tiny Paradise)

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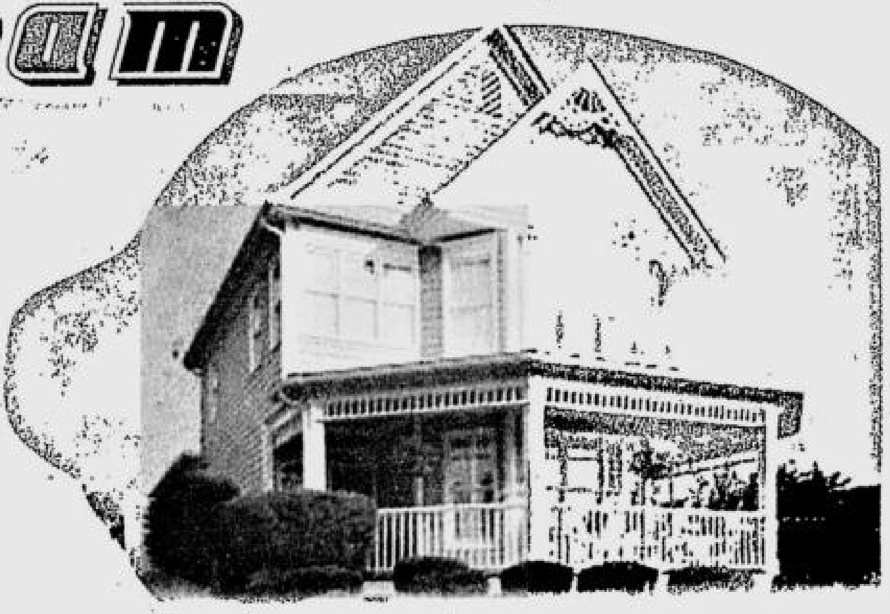

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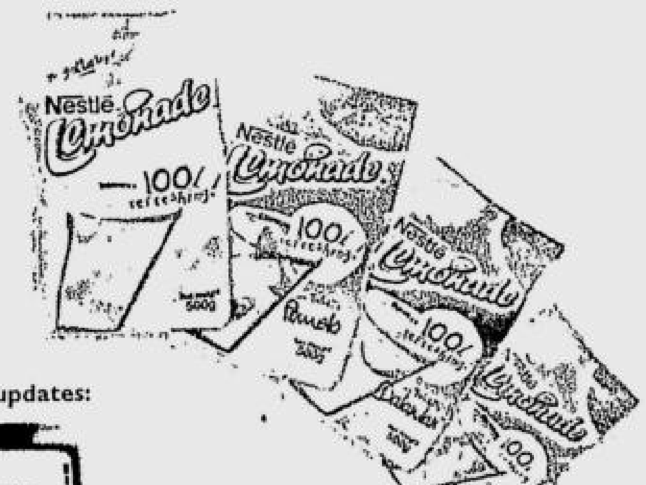
NESTLÉ LEMONADE Gift Packs to be raffled off daily!



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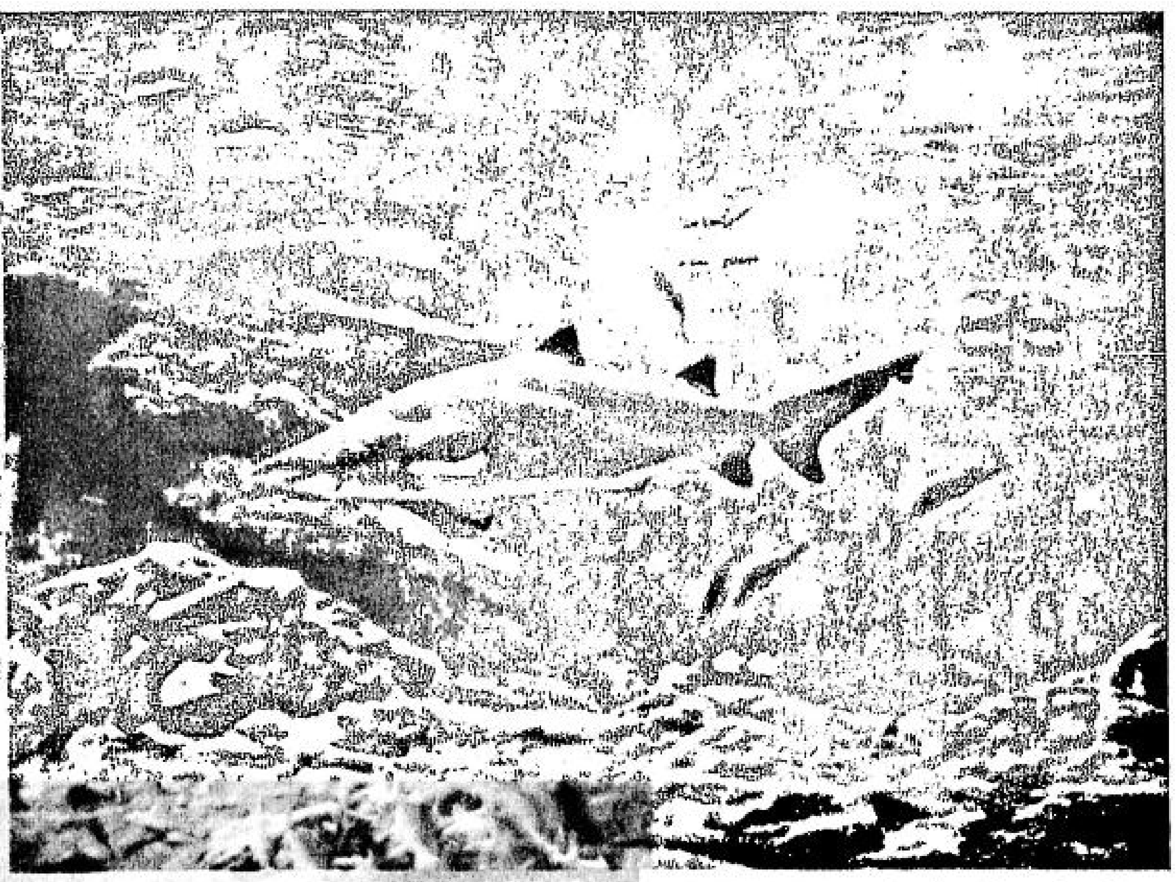
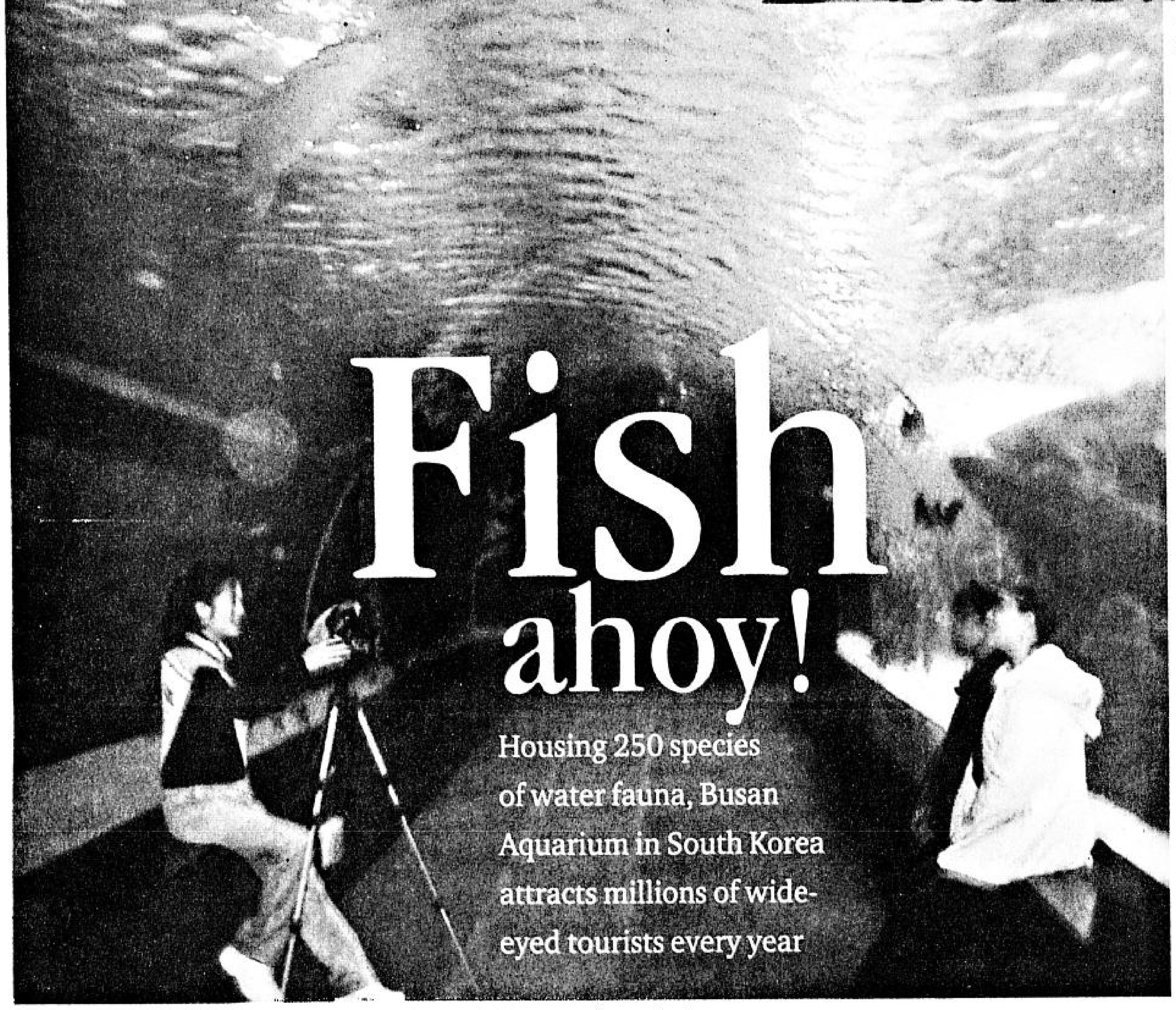
See flyers for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1308. Series of 2004.



THE BUSAN Aquarium has 11 species of sharks, including the endangered grey nurses.



Fish ahoy!

Housing 250 species of water fauna, Busan Aquarium in South Korea attracts millions of wide-eyed tourists every year

SEAWATER is pumped directly from Haeundae and into the aquarium's two-story deep reef tanks.

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

WHEN you've come face to face with sharks and—heavens!—piranhas and lived to tell the tale, well, you're one lucky mammal.

Busan, South Korea, the dynamic port city second only in size to Seoul, takes pride in its great variety of the freshest hoë, or sliced raw fish (sashimi to the Japanese)—and gives you a chance at a close encounter with fearsome creatures of the deep.

The charming city south of the capital is South Korea's biggest exporter of seafood. Its lively fish market, Jagalchi, is in fact one of Busan's main tourist attractions.

But not all of Busan's sea creatures meet their fate through a kitchen knife and get to be served with *bap* (steamed rice) and *kimchi* (fermented vegetable).

THE DYNAMIC port city of Busan

Truth is, the city fiercely protects its aquatic beasts, and it's got a $30-million facility with 35,000 animals in residence to prove it.

Housing 250 species of saltwater and freshwater fishes, invertebrates (giant Pacific octopus, jellyfishes) and a handful of amphibians and reptiles, a bird (the Jackass penguin) and a mammal (the Asian small-clawed otter), Busan Aquarium has drawn millions of visitors since it opened to the public in November 2001.

It has 11 species of sharks—with 12 endangered grey nurses, the largest captive colony in Korea—which, by itself, draws tourists all year round.

Located on the touristy area of Haeundae Beach, the aquarium was developed by Oceanis Australia Pty. Ltd., the same marine specialist that built the Melbourne Aquarium and Chang Feng Ocean World in Shanghai, in partnership with the local government.

Seawater is pumped directly from Haeundae and into the aquarium's two-story deep reef tanks. One level is devoted to restaurants, gift shops and simulator rides.

Mean-looking

The state-of-the-art facility has four levels, but only one is seen aboveground; two of the three basement levels feature an underground tunnel where only a 22-millimeter acrylic viewing window separates humans from the enormous and mean-looking sharks swimming overhead.

None of them are man-eating Great Whites, the English-speaking guide assures guests. In fact, part of the aquarium's entertainment is fish feeding, where divers are shown swimming and playing with the sharks and other fishes.

Giant sea turtles, four species of rays and a gigantic grouper (almost as big as the 2.5-meter-long gray nurse shark) also make wide-eyed kids out of adults.

Forty separate acrylic tanks display the usual snappers, arowanas and catfishes, as well as the more fascinating penguins, giant spider crabs, salamanders, otters, electric eels and—thank heavens for the 22-mm acrylic between you—shiny, orange-scaled, vicious-looking piranhas!

Seemingly in repose, the entire school stealthily sits motionless in the water, ready to strike at a prey anytime.

A gentler and educational feature is the touch pool, where children get to pet and hold starfishes and the like.

The Busan Aquarium alone is worth making the three-hour flight to South Korea in sub-zero weather. For where else in a 1,000-mile radius can any Filipino find a place to fraternize with sharks (well, sort of) without putting on wetsuits and lugging oxygen tanks—and live to brag about it?

The familiarization tour of Busan, South Korea, was sponsored by the Busan Metropolitan City. Visit www.visit.busan.kr, www.busanaquarium.com or e-mail visitadmin@metro.busan.kr.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

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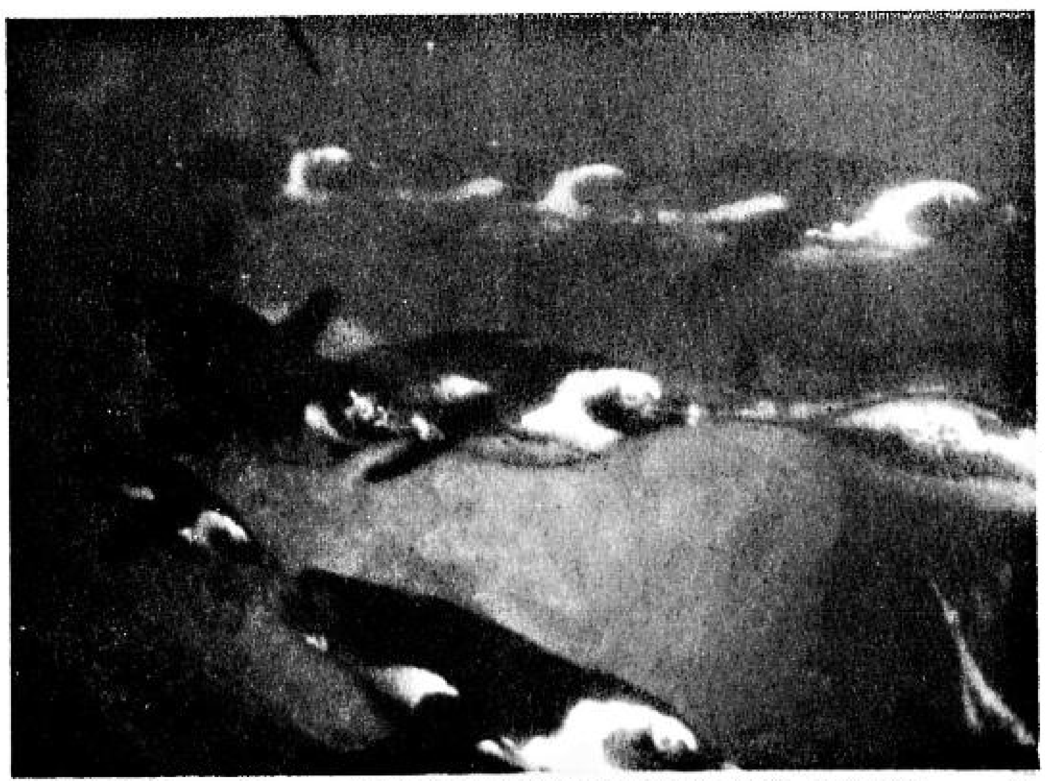
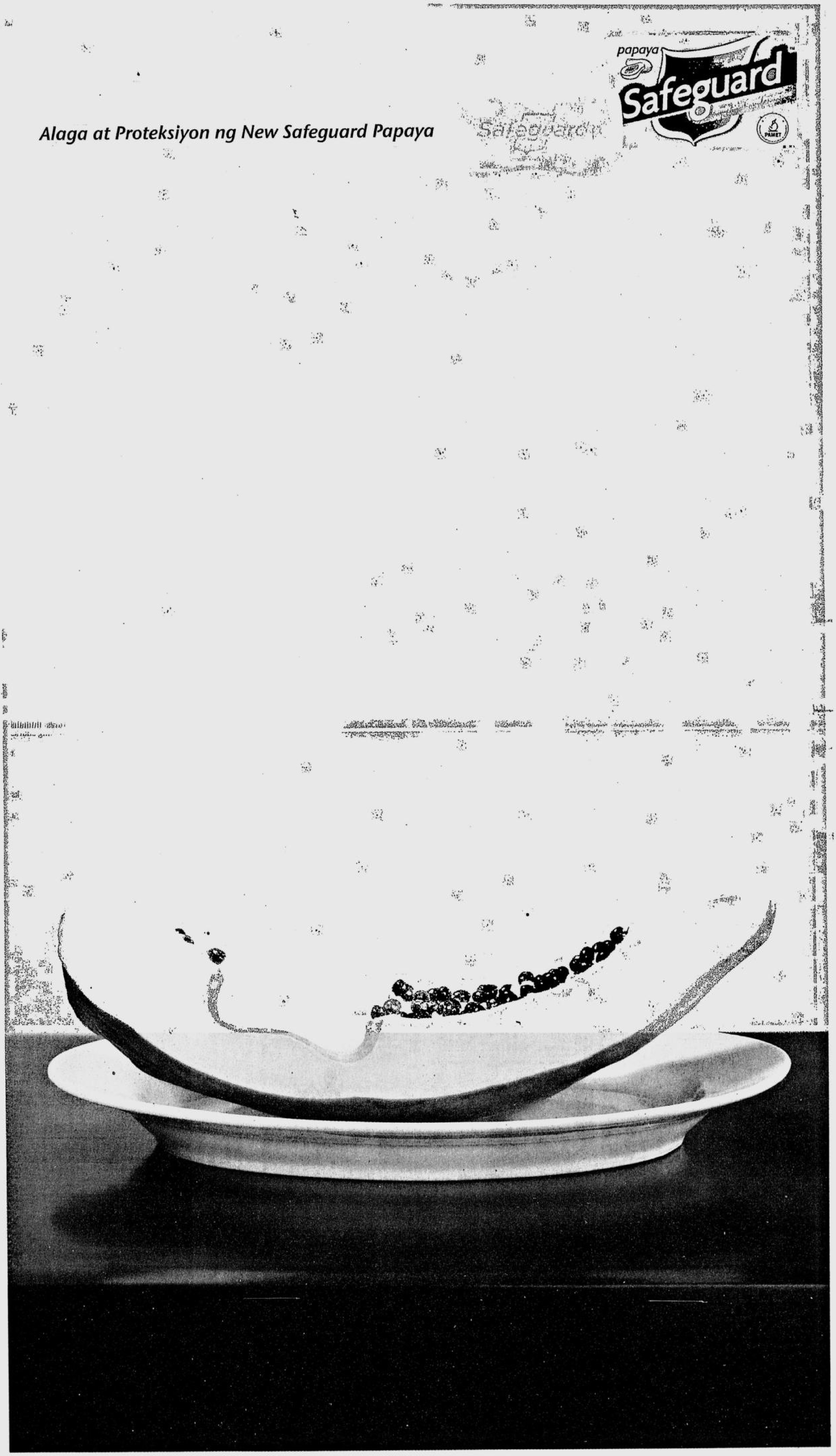
FEARSOME piranhas



THE JACKASS penguin can only be found in the Southern Africa coast... and Busan Aquarium.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A galloping, golfing weekend for Globe Platinum

As the rest of the populace whiles away the weekends, the well-heeled members of the Globe Platinum elite find themselves basking in the luxuries and privileges that have come to be synonymous with Globe Platinum. Recently, they found themselves on the greens and polo field of the Alabang Country Club where they saw the culmination of the two most awaited sporting and lifestyle events this year: the 2004 President's Cup Golf Tournament and the FEI World Jumping Challenge.

Seen swinging at the ACC's 18-hole course were former ABS-CBN President and COO Freddie Garcia, Sunstar columnist Edgar Chiongbian, ACCI General Manager Larry Jalbuena, SVP & CFO of Pru Life UK Indren Naidoo and jeweler Hans Brumann.

At the ACC poolside not too far away, golfers tried to beat the summer heat with a luau, Platinum style. Donned in their Hawiian outfits and grooving to the beats of Sabor Latino, many competitors walked away pleased with their awards and raffle prizes from Platinum. Golfer Jun Bautista won a Samsung X600 handset, while Andi Tabusalla and his member-partner Pedro Molera were awarded Overall Team Champions of the tournament.

Meanwhile, at the polo field, equestrians put on a spectacular show as they hurdled the obstacles of Globe Platinum's 1.05 and 1.02 meter jumps. Platinum subscriber Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and her horse Luisita, triumphed in the Globe Platinum 1.02 meter jump, followed by Vic Barba on Boytoy and Joker Arroyo on Intrigue.

On the Globe Platinum 1.05 meter jump, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski claimed 1st place on Luisita. Dani Virata was awarded 2nd place on Daydream, 3rd place was Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, this time on Rustic Rouge, 4th place was received by Vic Barba on Boytoy and 5th place went to Jeena Lopez on Othello.

Nearby, the polo field's elegant ambience dissolved into a more fun, carnival atmosphere with dancing clowns, acrobats, pony rides, face painting and adventure-filled attractions like the velcro wall and giant trampoline -- all for the children of the Platinum elite.

Spotted enjoying all these attractions were Bea Lucero-Lhuillier, basketball legend Ramon Fernandez, Maricar Tantoco, model/entrepreneur Illac Diaz, sportscaster Dyan Castillejo, actress Pinky Amador, Christine Jacob, ABS-CBN Publishing President and Platinum member Ernie Lopez, Chinna Cojuangco, former Tarlac Representative Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and former Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

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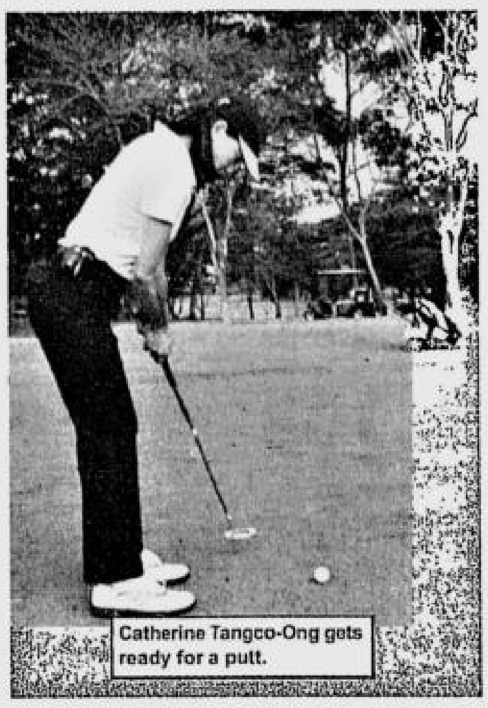
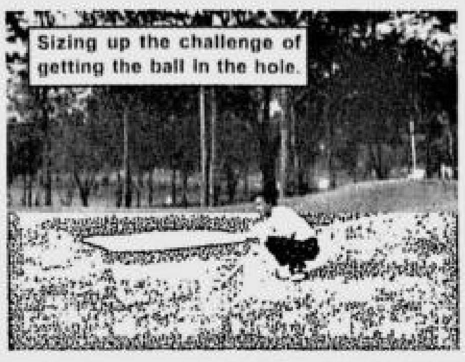
Getting ready for tee off are Ruben Valerio, Club President Boy de Borja, Johnny Castillo and Ed Lacson.


Catherine Tangco-Ong gets ready for a putt.

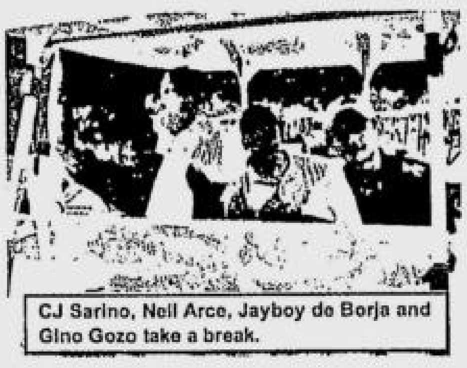

Sizing up the challenge of getting the ball in the hole.

A privileged experience from Globe Platinum
Signing-up at the Globe Platinum booth are Leo Villanueva, Nilo Samia, Paul Cortez and Bonnie Pimentel.

Edwin Mendiola and Nards Leviste check their handicaps.

Edwin Mendiola and Nards Leviste gear up before heading for the greens.

Juan Miguel Llamas at the Globe Platinum booth.


CJ Sarino, Neil Arce, Jayboy de Borja and Gino Gozo take a break.

Jo-Christy Punsalang, Marilyn Reyes, Merle Garcia and Te Villar smile for the camera.

Golfer Paul Cortez does the hula.

Clear skies for golfers Rolly Cabilao, Tony Yupangco, Jimmy dela Rosa, Ricky Canlas, Ernesto Reynoso and Miguel Moras.

Sabor Latino's beats got Globe Platinum members grooving.

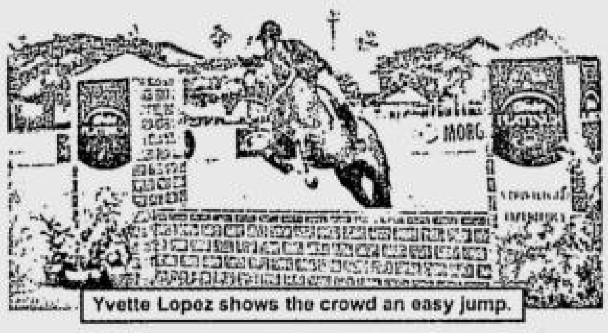
Boy de Borja, Grand team champions Pedro Molera and Andi Tabusalla, Jimbo Iñigo and Paul Cortez.

Club President Boy de Borja gives Jun Bautista the Samsung X600 from Globe Platinum. Flanking him are Globe Platinum Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon, Globe Direct Head Sheila Sarmiento and Globe Head of VIP Sales Gracielu Khoe.

Asian Equestrian Federation's Kim Il-Hong and Ho Nai Yue, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Vicki Roycroft.

Los Tamaraos officials pose for the camera during the break.

Christine Jacob and her baby.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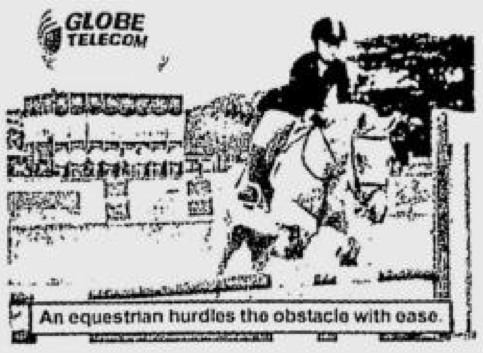
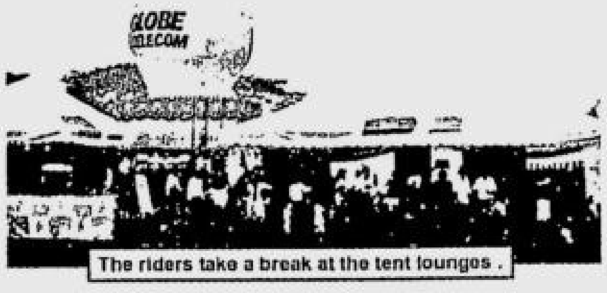


An equestrian hurdles the obstacle with ease.

Illac Diaz, Platinum subscriber Ernie Lopez and Miguel Felix.



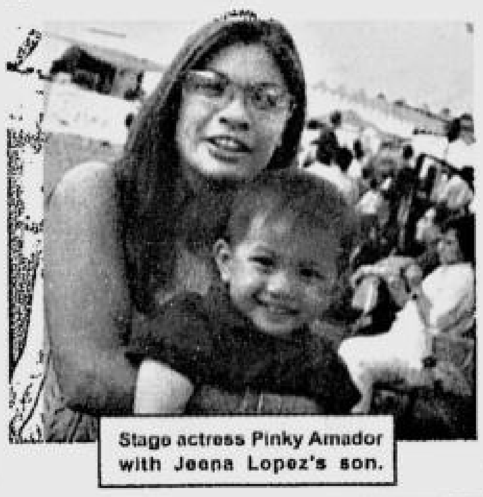
The riders take a break at the tent lounges .

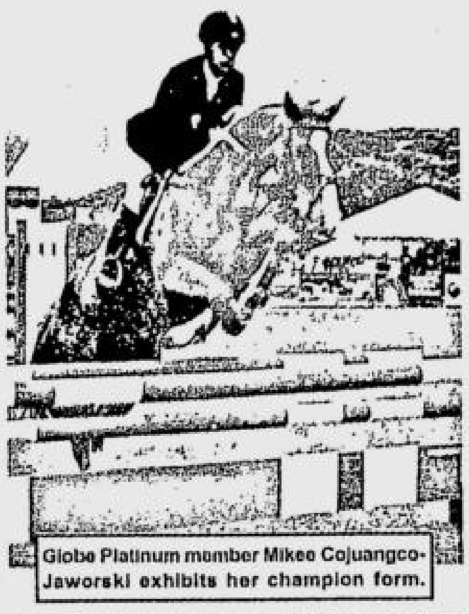
Two-year old Allyssa Sy enjoys the face-painting treat while mom Ann looks on.

Bellevue Gen. Manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata and Globe Platinum's Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon award Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski top honors.

Jeena Lopez, Vic Barba, Dani Virata and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworksi get ready to receive their awards.

The equestrians inspect the course before the competition.


Stage actress Pinky Amador with Jeena Lopez's son.


Globe Platinum member Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski exhibits her champion form.

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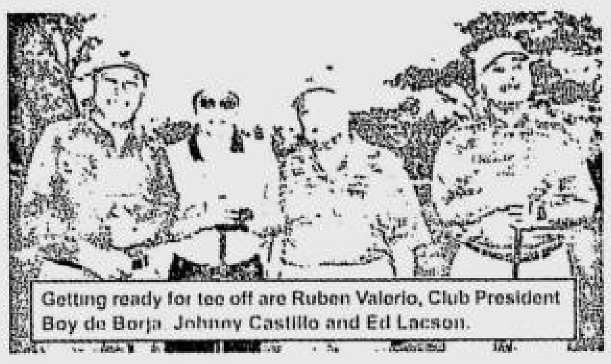
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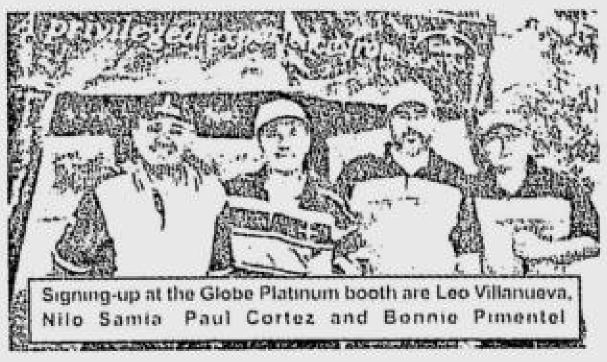
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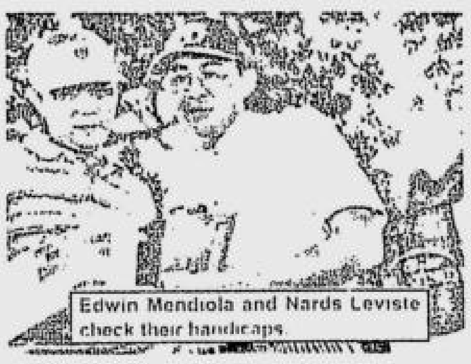
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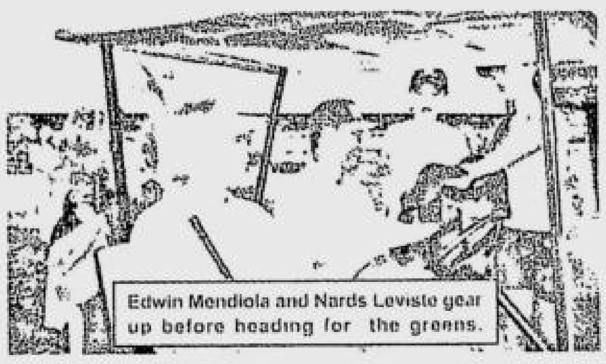
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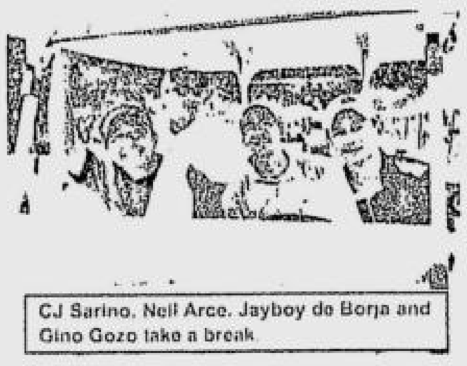
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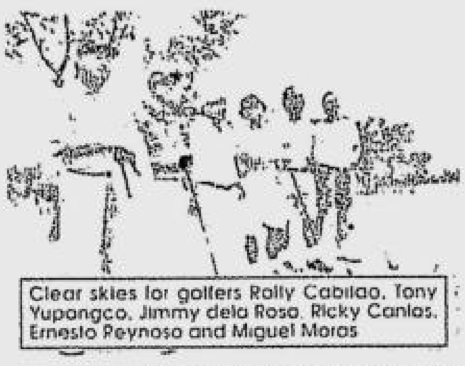
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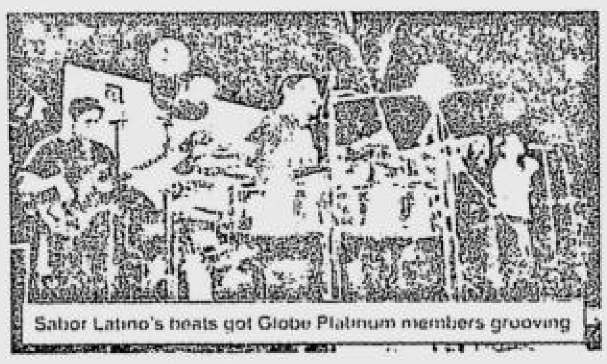
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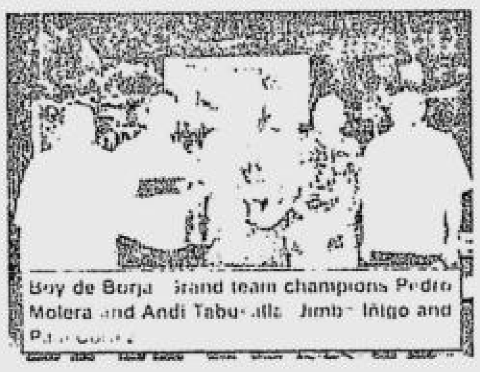
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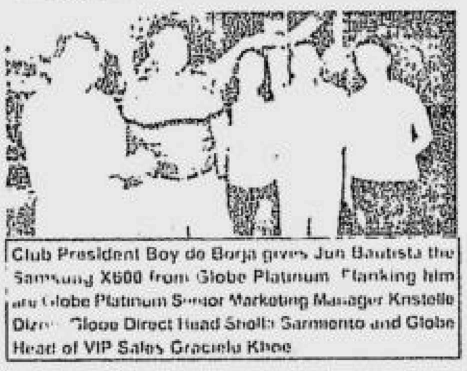
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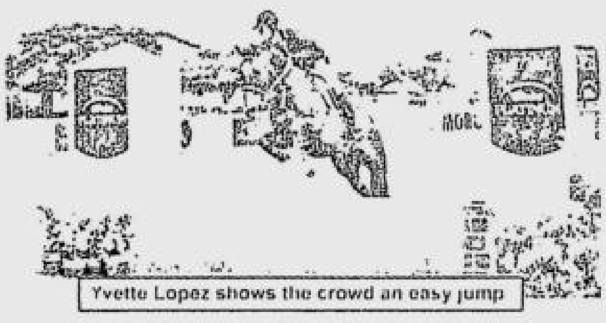
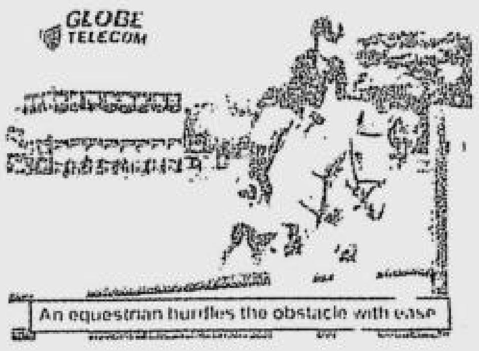
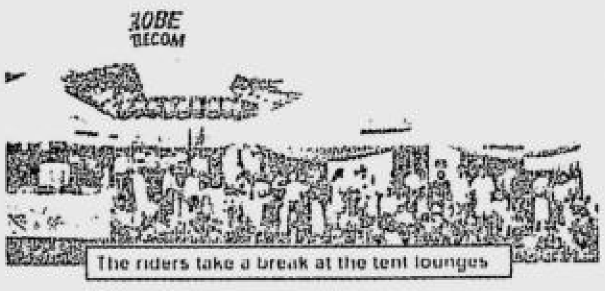

Yvette Lopez shows the crowd an easy jump



An equestrian hurdles the obstacle with ease

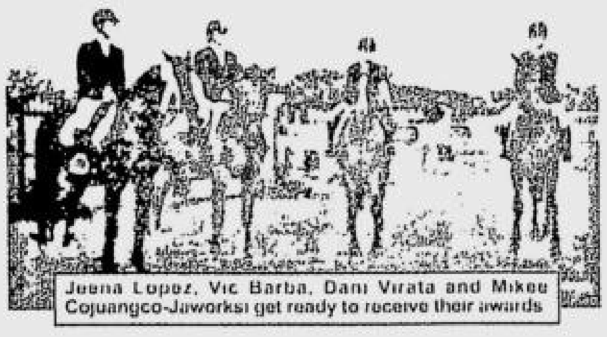
Illac Diaz, Platinum subscriber Ernie Lopez and Miguel Felix



The riders take a break at the tent lounges

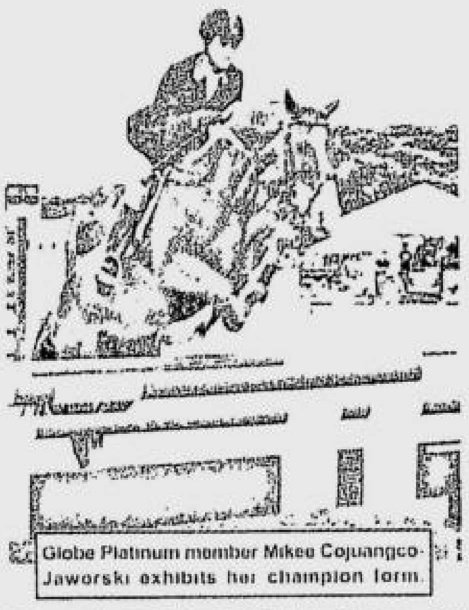
Two-year old Allyssa Sy enjoys the face-painting treat while mom Ann looks on.

Bellevue Gen Manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata and Globe Platinum's Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon award Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski top honors


Jeena Lopez, Vic Barba, Dani Virata and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworksi get ready to receive their awards

The equestrians inspect the course before the competition

Stage actress Pinky Amador with Jeena Lopez's son.


Globe Platinum member Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski exhibits her champion form.

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Story on page G2

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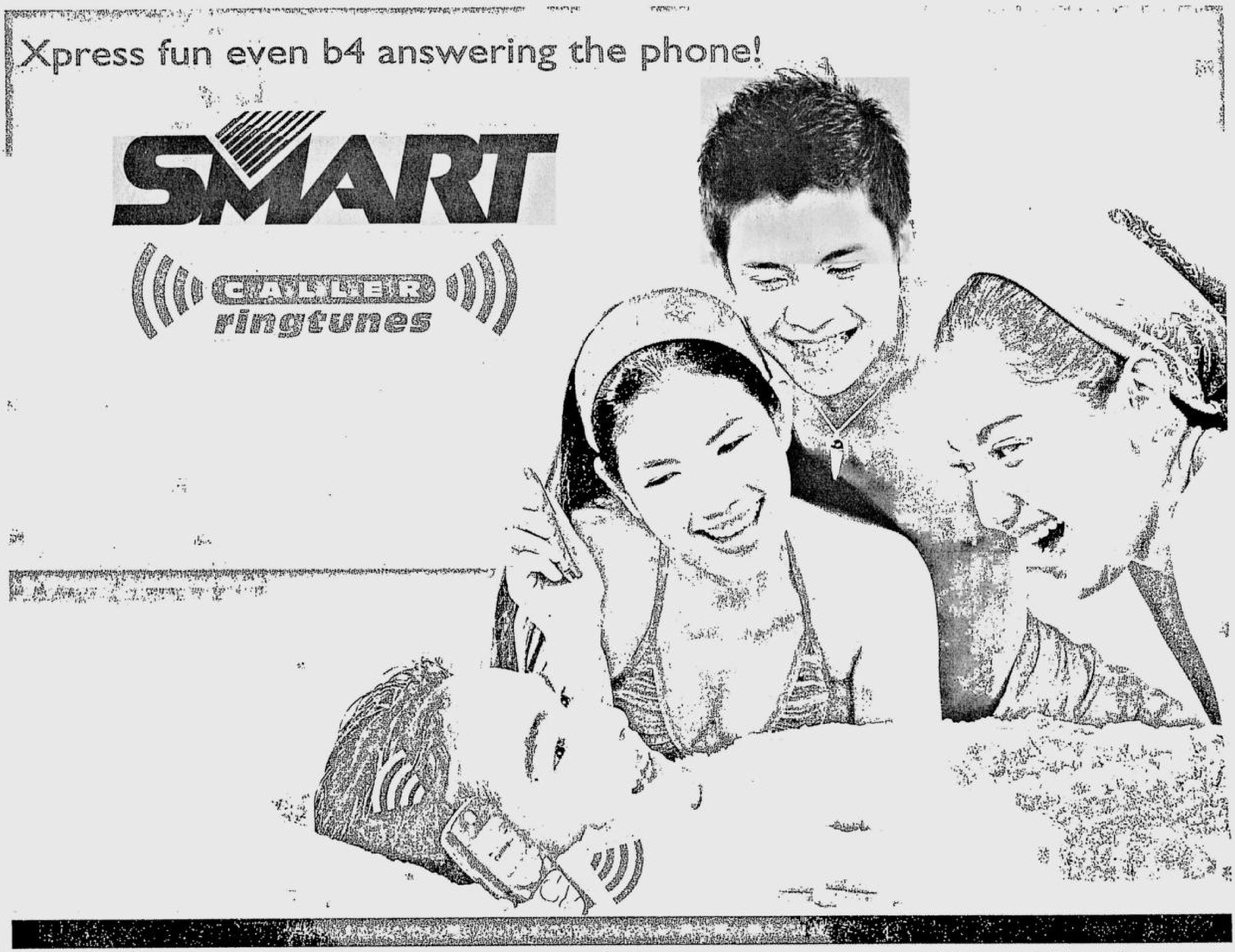
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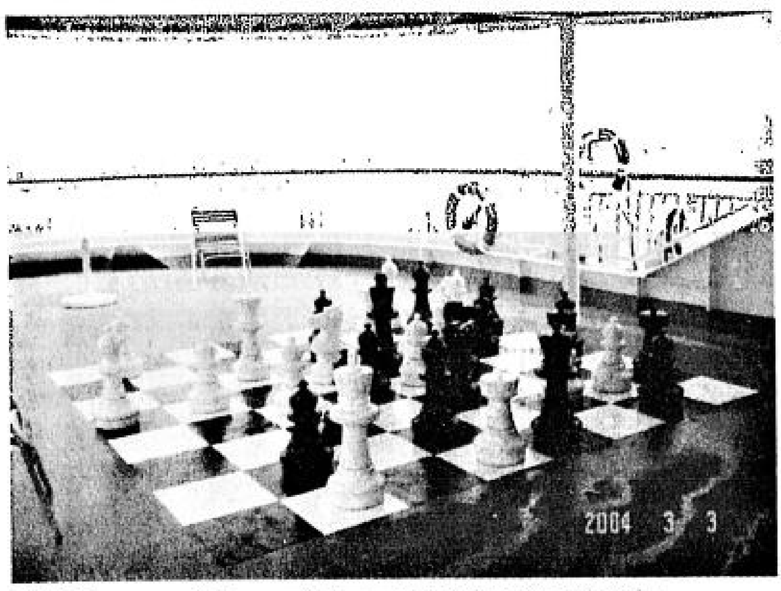
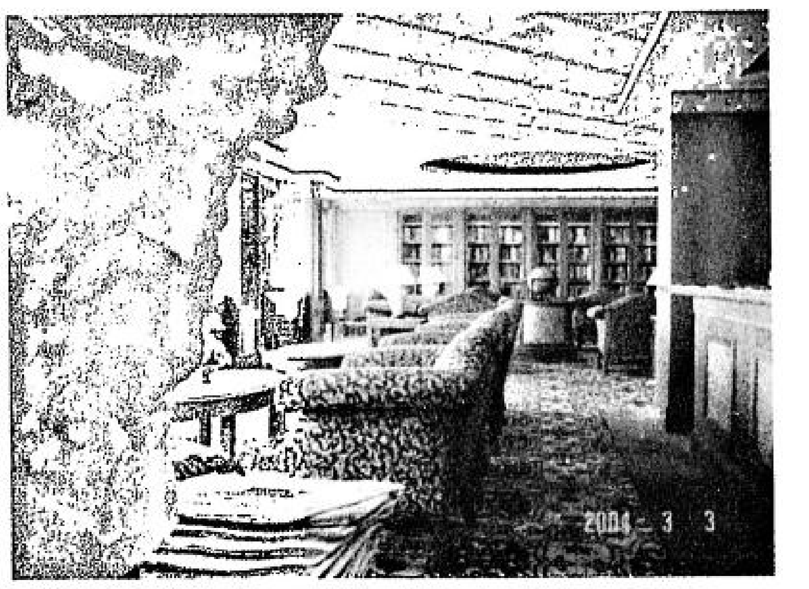


ENJOY a game of chess on this oversized chess board at the Amphitheatre.

TAKE a walk on one of the decks to catch some fresh air.



A QUIET nook for stubborn bookworms is SSV Star Virgo's Library.

Sailing the high seas in style

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

Aboard Star Cruise's SuperStar Virgo, business and pleasure mix with the smoothness of a velvety Scotch

THE SILKY, deep-blue waters of the high seas that once lured fearless adventurers to explore their mysterious vastness still captivate curious souls even now.

In fact, a seafaring business trip onboard a luxurious ship is becoming popular nowadays. There's simply no better time to get those creative juices flowing than on a relaxing cruise, where the fine mix of business and pleasure is as smooth as a velvety Scotch.

Seminars, workshops, meetings or conventions on a cruise are a far cry from the usual hotel receptions where leisure time is ironically limited to, well, anywhere in the prosaic generic structure that is the city. What it lacks is the overall experience of an affair—from work to playtime—that leads to a more memorable, prolific and productive gathering.

Only on a cruise can business people feel the sea breeze softly blowing through their hair, or witness a glorious sunrise or sunset at the open decks or in the privy of their staterooms before bracing themselves for another round of intense brainstorming.

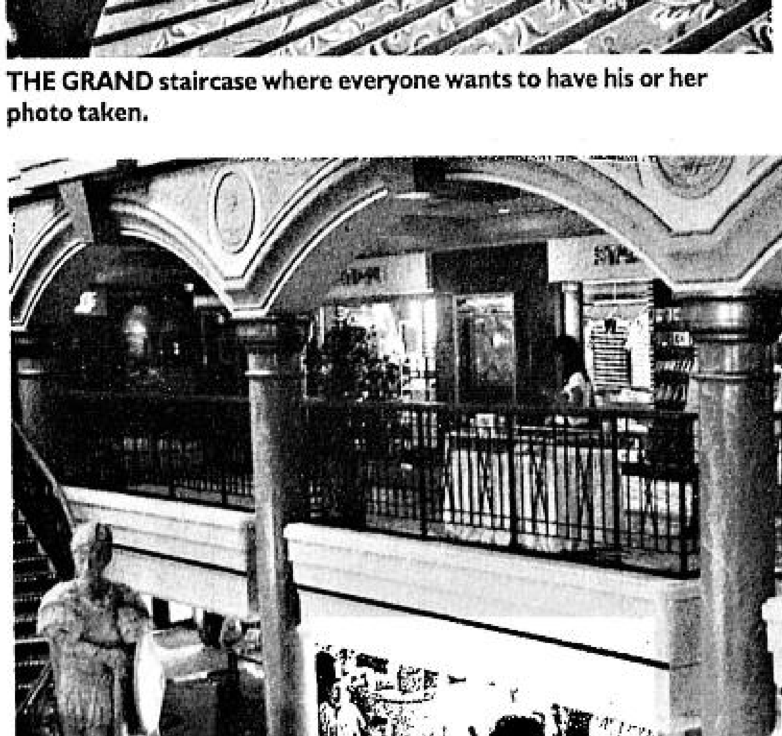
Now that is priceless, and more still can be theirs onboard Asia-Pacific's leading cruise line, Star Cruise.

SuperStar Virgo

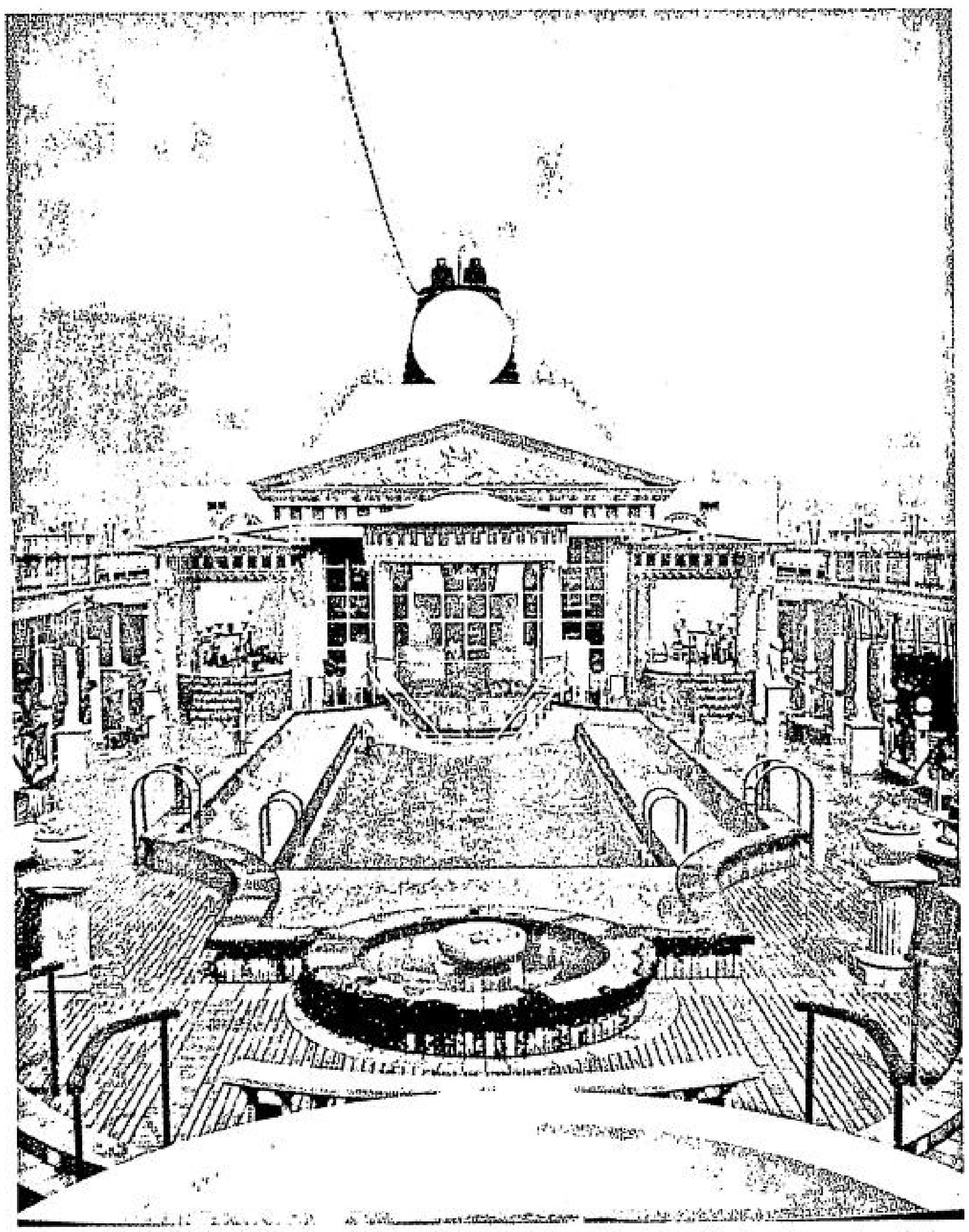
Among Star Cruise's fleet of luxury liners is the 13-deck-high SuperStar Virgo (SSV), with 12 function rooms in boardroom, classroom, U-shape and theater style layouts that can seat anywhere from eight to 700 people.

Amenities, such as projectors, screens, pocket dictaphone, TV, VCD player, cassette deck, video tape player, flipchart/whiteboard, etc., can be rented on a per unit basis. Floral arrangements can also be arranged for a fee.

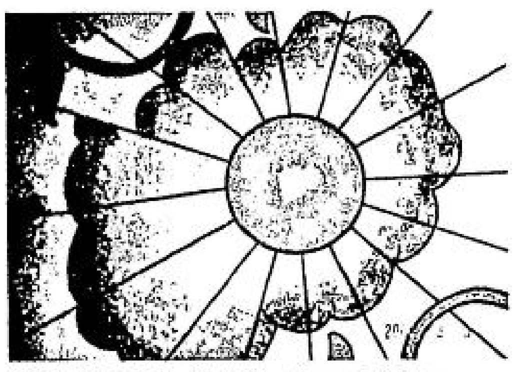
THE GRAND staircase where everyone wants to have his or her photo taken.



DUTY-FREE shops for shopaholics



THE PARTHENON outdoor swimming pool on Deck 12, surrounded by four jacuzzi pools, is the haven of sunbathers.



THE STAINED-GLASS ceilings brighten up the reception area.

ELEVATORS are strategically located for easy access to the ship's many facilities.

DANCE the night away at the Celebrity Disco.

FINE-DINING at the Bella Vista, which offers international cuisine.

THE PERFECT sunset starts off a romantic evening for this couple.

Function rooms are rented by the hour, and the package includes a number of equipment at no extra charge. Rental for public area rooms, however, such as The Lido, a theater convertible into an auditorium meeting area, does not include equipment.

For a minimum of 15 cabins or 30 persons (twin sharing), companies, organizations and even students in the country can opt to hold their meetings onboard instead of hotels abroad.

Depending on duration and cabin accommodation, rates start at under US$400 for twin sharing arrangements (excluding airfare to Singapore, where Star Cruise is berthed), including six full-board meals every day in selected restaurants, access to bars, discos, karaoke and ballroom and entrance to nightly theater shows, and use of swimming pool, jacuzzi, gym and sports facilities.

And if participants book for Balcony Class, they automatically receive a S$300 food and beverage credit, consumable in any of SSV's wine and dine establishments, of which there are more than 10 to choose from. These include Italian, Chinese and Japanese gastronomical treats to cigars and cognac and champagne bars, as well as an ice cream bar.

But that's just a teaser of what SSV has in store.

Learning environment

The throng of Singaporean college students onboard for a leadership seminar, for instance, unwinds at the Celebrity Disco on evenings.

"We discovered that students learn faster on a cruise because it has a completely different environment. The atmosphere is more relaxed compared to those held in the city, even with the same workshop modules and method," says Roland Tan Keng Hock, director of the Department of Student and Alumni Affairs of the Singapore Polytechnic.

Indeed, despite the pressure that comes with the territory, the students' performance, says Hock, is way better than previous workshops held on land.

He is quick to credit this to the ship's ambience—the sun, the moon, the breeze, the ocean—which might make poets out of mumbling Joes and Janes. It is precisely this success that has made the Singapore Polytechnic come back for its second year.

Last year, the first-ever group of Filipino students from University of Sto. Tomas also held its workshop onboard SSV.

About 30 percent of Star Cruise passengers go on a business cruise, either for meetings, award ceremonies, staff rewards, invitation to company clients, dinner and dance, cocktail receptions, etc. (SSV can accommodate nearly 2,000 guests in its 980 cabins.) The ship has, in fact, event coordinators to make the business-cum-holiday trip smooth sailing all the way.

Since about eight to 10 hours are allotted for each port of call, even the busiest businessman onboard can enjoy land excursions at his most convenient time. There are, of course, group land tours as well.

Some even bring their families along, since there is always something for everyone onboard. There's a kiddie pool and arcade room for kids, a childcare center, and a spa, beauty salon and shopping emporium for mom.

Like home

The ship is manned by a very skilled skipper, Capt. Hakan Svedung, a Swedish national with 29 years of ship experience under his belt. He says Singapore and Malaysia have done a very good job in keeping sea brigands at bay.

On-call 24 hours a day, he says that for the 10 straight weeks they're on duty, "we don't drink any alcohol, and that goes for all deck officers and crewmembers." The crew spends another 10 weeks on land before returning to sea.

Of the 1,315 crewmembers, adds Svedung, 396 are Filipinos. Thus, you're assured of finding that warm Filipino smile on every deck, and be treated like a king or queen by your compatriots. Now that's a treat any Filipino—businessman or not—would enjoy.

The cruise was sponsored by Star Cruises with the Singapore Tourism Board. Call Star Cruise Phils. at 5215660 and 5268401, fax 5215637, e-mail ebjon@starcruises.com.ph or visit its office at Unit 3B Pacific Place Building, 539 Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

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HUNT'S Spaghetti Sauce	P57.50 ea.	62.50
MAGGI Broth Cubes • On Selected Flavors 66 g	P22.50 /pk.	23.50
JOLLY Cream of Mushroom Soup	P28.00 ea.	29.50
BLUE BAY Sardines • Tomato Sauce Chili 155 g	P7.75 ea.	7.90
ARGENTINA Meat Loaf • Hot & Spicy 170 g	P12.75 ea.	13.25
ARGENTINA Corned Beef 175 g	P22.75 ea.	
PUREFOODS Chinese Luncheon Meat 350 g	P38.00 ea.	38.50
CENTURY Tuna Chunks • On Selected Flavors 184 g	P22.25 ea.	22.50
HUNT'S Pork & Beans 165 g	P11.95 ea.	
LUCKY ME! Mini Cup Noodles • On Selected Flavors 35 g	P11.45 ea.	11.90
MAGGI Instant Spaghetti • Sweet & Meaty 90 g	P11.85 ea.	12.50
NUTRILICIOUS Mom's Real Mayo 220 mL	P34.25 ea.	36.00
KRAFT Miracle Whip • Regular 225 mL	P31.25 ea.	32.50
LILY'S Peanut Butter 364 g	P56.25 ea.	57.50
GOLDEN OATS Instant Oatmeal 500 g	P39.75 /pk.	42.50
MAXWELL 3-in-1 Coffee 14 g/12s	P34.50 /pk.	38.50
NESTLÉ 1+ Premium Growing Up Milk 1 kg	P424.50 ea.	444.50
DUMEX 3+ Growing Up Milk • Chocolate 900 g	P306.50 ea.	316.50
BONAKID Growing Up Milk 1 kg	P274.95 ea.	
BIRCH TREE Full Cream Milk Powder 900 g	P203.50 ea.	206.50
ANCHOR 2in1 Full Cream Milk Powder • Chocolate 800 g	P212.50 ea.	222.50
ANCHOR UHT Milk • Mocha 250 mL	P13.75 ea.	15.00
ANGEL Evaporada 410 mL	P17.50 ea.	19.50
EGG BITES Cookies • On Selected Flavors 165 g	P14.50 ea.	15.50
C! Chocolate Chips Cookies 200 g	P25.50 ea.	27.50

Fresh Pick Idea

No Miss SINIGANG NA ISDA SA MISO

Ingredients:

2 tbsps.	cooking oil
1 tbsp.	chopped garlic
1/2 cup	sliced onions
1 cup	sliced tomatoes
1 L.	water
1 whole	medium size fish, cleaned and sliced (approx. 1/2 kg.)
1 cup	peeled, sliced labanos (radish)
1 pack	37 g. MAGGI Sinigang Sa Miso Mix
150 g.	mustasa leaves

Procedure:

Heat oil, sauté garlic, onions and tomatoes until limp. Pour in water and bring to a boil. Add fish and cook for 5 minutes. Add labanos and cook for 3 minutes or until crisp tender. Add MAGGI Sinigang Sa Miso Mix and then the mustasa leaves. Bring to a boil.

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Kangkong	P26
MONTEREY Ground Pork Reg. P 150.00	P136 /kg
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Cauliflower	P41
BIG MAMA Beef Brisket Reg. P 182.00 *Available at selected branches	P173 /kg
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CY GABRIEL Pure Whitening Soap 135 g	P27.75 ea.	31.75
CREAM SILK Conditioner • On Selected Variants 200 mL	P66.00 ea.	66.50
JERGENS Skin Firming Body Wash	P159.75 ea.	169.75
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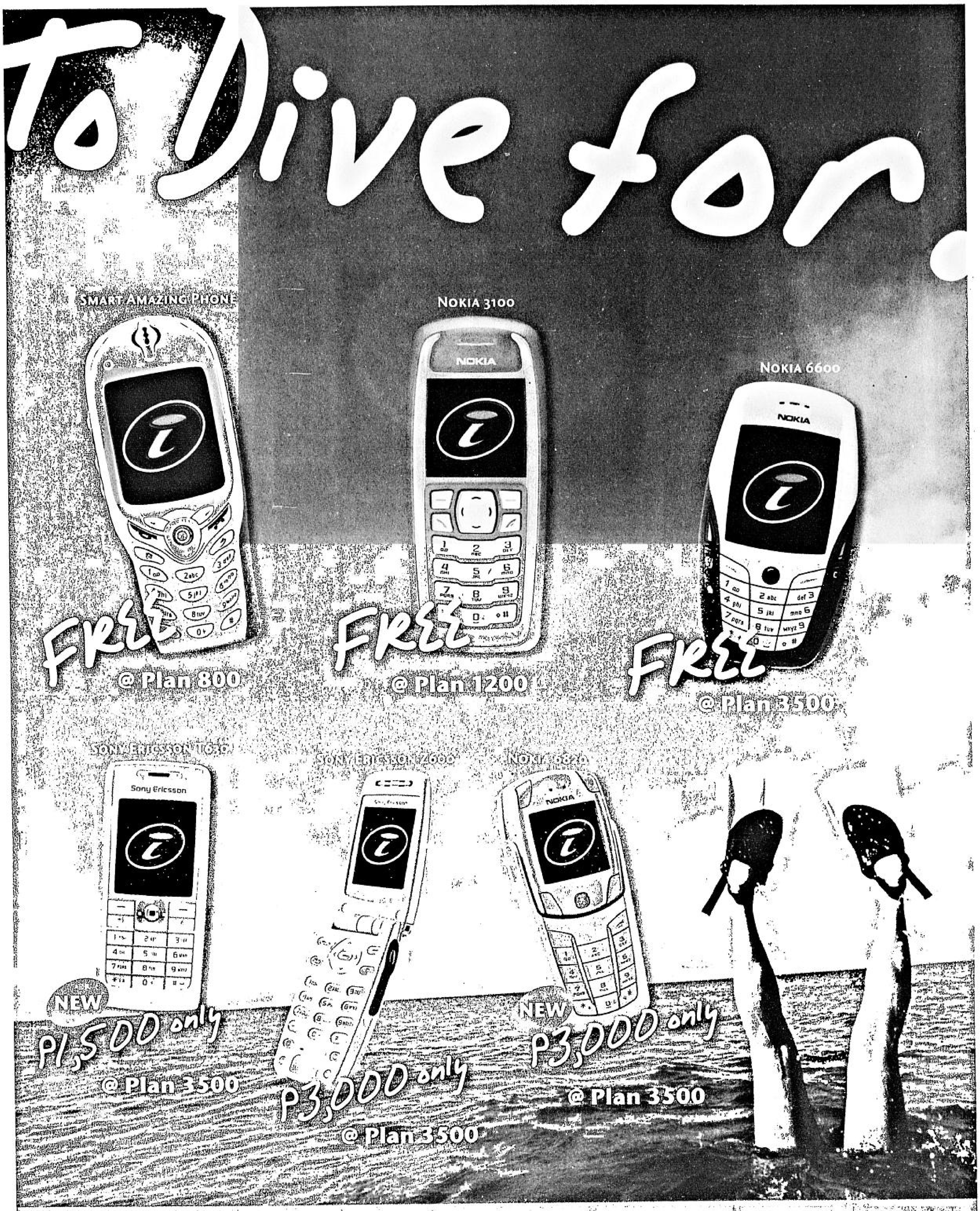
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Modest salute to inspiring teachers

By Rowena C. Burgos

SINCE teaching is physically draining, intellectually demanding and, with the low pay, financially challenging, teachers inspire awe and reverence. Me magazine, a publication of Mega Magazines & Publications Inc., tried to put this awe and reverence to good work by holding the Inspiring Teacher Awards at Discovery Suites.

"Teachers hold a position of influence in the lives of their students and yet oftentimes they are overlooked," said Cathy Babao-Guballa, editor in chief of Me. "The impact that a good teacher has on a young life is one that the student will carry with them forever. With this event, we want to encourage teachers to continue being positive influences in the hearts and minds of their students."

The five awardees were nominated by their students and co-teachers.

Philippine Science High School Social Science teacher Ma. Cristina Pargas Bawagan, 49, strives to bring out the best in her students by teaching them to be open to criticism. She herself accepts criticism from them.

"When I started teaching at Philippine Science High School, *ang dating ko ay* super strict," Bawagan remembered. "One student was so frank to tell me, 'You know, Ma'am, some of us have learned to hate you.' So I asked, 'Why?' and got the feedback from him. The following day, I asked all my students to write on a piece of paper the positive and negative things about me and my method of teaching."

To her surprise, students whom she thought didn't like her gave kind comments. She gathered the comments and held a dialogue with her classes. The evaluation improved her teaching, Bawagan said.

She herself went into teaching because she had been inspired by her elementary teachers at Maryknoll College. She had been drawn to their very neat folders and books covered with plastic. So every time she went home, she'd play teacher to her friends.

But growing up, she forgot her dream. "When I was in college, I took up AB History at UP Diliman for I was interested in people and society. It was only in 1981 that I became a full-time teacher," she said.

A student, Kirsten Anne Lopez, described Bawagan in an essay as a very optimistic person. "She always finds a bright side to any situation, no matter how hopeless or tragic it may be. Furthermore, she teaches us to accept our faults and to view them as opportunities instead of roadblocks ... She readily accepts criticisms and is always trying to change herself for the better."

Not her first love

"Teaching was not really my first love," said Araceli dela Cruz, who took up dressmaking when she was but 13.

The third in a brood of nine, she had to earn a living while studying. Cruz's father was a maker of plastic frames while her late mother was a laundry woman.

Me magazine's
Inspiring Teacher

MARILYN Laureno, Marilou Goloya, Araceli Cruz, Ma. Cristina Bawagan and Laura de Guzman

RANDY HORMILLOSA

She went to Arellano Memorial College as a working student. After finishing high school, she stopped again for another four years to work at a biscuit factory. With the aid of her older sister who's a teacher, Cruz was able to get a National College Entrance Examination for out-of-school youths.

Armed with strong determination and unwavering faith in God, Cruz finished BS in Education. After work, she would attend evening classes at the Dalubhasang Epifanio de los Santos in Malabon. She the pursued a Master of Arts in Education at the Gov. Andres Pascual College.

She said she considers teaching a mission from God. "So when I took up the board exams even though I was short of nine units at that time, and passed it, I was truly grateful for such blessing," said Cruz, 48, who teaches Filipino at the Malabon National High School.

Nominated by Matilde Martinez, head of the school's Filipino department, Cruz was described by her supervisor as a model teacher and an inspiration to her colleagues.

"*Isa siyang gurong hindi sagwil ang baha, ulan man o bagyo upang makarating sa paaralan,*" Martinez wrote in her essay. ("She's the type of teacher who would not be stopped from teaching by flood, rain or typhoon.")

The other awardees reflect the same passion for teaching.

Laura de Guzman of La Salle Greenhills is a Chemistry graduate. What sets her apart from her colleagues is her desire to teach students how to apply scientific learning in real life. She also involves her students in charity missions to make them socially aware.

Marilou Cancio Goloya is a special education teacher for the visually impaired at the Sta. Ana Elementary School. She works devotedly for blind students who otherwise would have no place in traditional formal education.

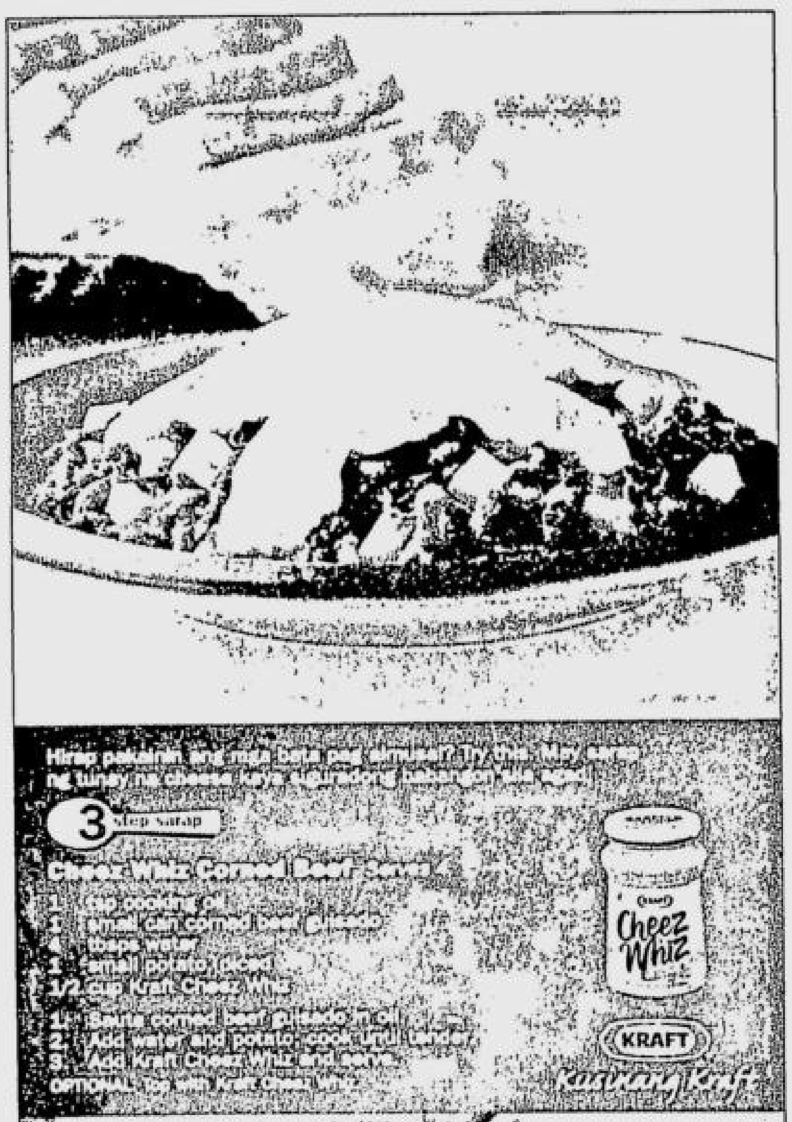
Meanwhile, Marilyn Laureno, an English and Science and Health teacher of Caloocan's Star Elementary School, is dedicated to teaching her students good moral values, desirable traits and fear of God.

All the awardees consider teaching very rewarding despite the backbreaking work and the low pay.

"What's rewarding is when you see that you made a dent in your students—not only academically but also psychologically and emotionally," Bawagan said, "when you see them develop self-confidence and hope in life."

Cruz, who described herself as "a disciplinarian," said students need to recognize the meaning of authority. "It feels good when you see these kids at the end of the school year taking on the values you taught them," she said.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph


Hirap pakainin ang mga bata pag almusal? Try this. May sarap ng tunay na cheese kaya [illegible]

3 step sarap

Cheez Whiz Corned Beef [illegible]

1 tsp cooking oil
1 small can corned beef [illegible]
4 tbsps water
1 small potato, diced
1/2 cup Kraft Cheez Whiz

1. Saute corned beef [illegible] in oil
2. Add water and potato, cook until tender
3. Add Kraft Cheez Whiz and serve.

OPTIONAL: Top with Kraft Cheez Whiz.

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Miracle Whip Adobo Sandwich Serves 4

4 pcs leftover chicken adobo, shredded
1 garlic clove, chopped
1/2 tbsp cooking oil
1/4 cup Kraft Miracle Whip All-Purpose Dressing.
4 pcs pan de sals

1. Cook garlic and adobo in oil.
2. Combine with Kraft Miracle Whip.
3. Spread into bread or serve with rice.

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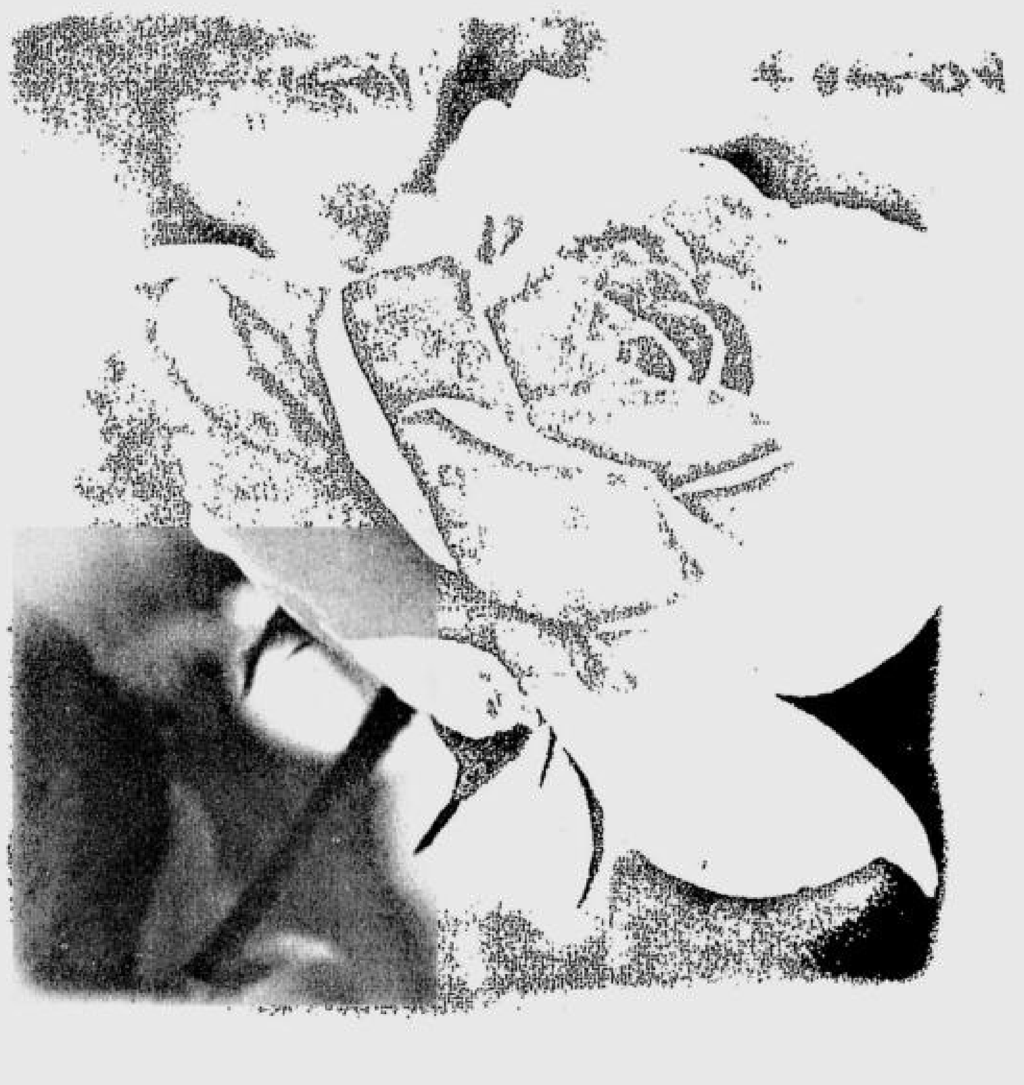
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CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE 2004 concert season of the Cebu-based Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP), dubbed "A Season of Musical Enchantments," held its opening concert recently in celebration of Philippine-German Friendship at the well-appointed Theater One of SM City Cebu.

The concert opened with **Mozart's** Divertimento in D, K. 136, which was warmly received by the capacity crowd. Even more applauded was the next number, Concerto Grosso in G Major for Violin and Viola, which made its world premiere.

It is a work by professor **Jeffrey Solares**, the PPP's main mentor and conductor for this concert. Jeffrey has a life-long passion for **Bach's** musical language, and he has put it to good use in this work. **Brian Cimafranca** was the violin soloist; **Gerry Varona**, the viola soloist.

CONDUCTOR Jeffrey Solares

Just as appreciated were three works by Filipino composers, beautifully arranged for this performance—**Restie Umali's** "Lulay," **Nicanor Abelardo's** "Cavatiba," and **Antonio Molina's** "Hating Gabi."

The concert concluded with Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major, featuring professor **Claus Kanngeiser** as soloist. He comes with excellent credentials, starting his career in a concert where he was paired with violinist **Yehudi Menuhin**. Kanngeiser is now with the Music School in Cologne (Germany), one of the biggest in the world.

PPP to have a home

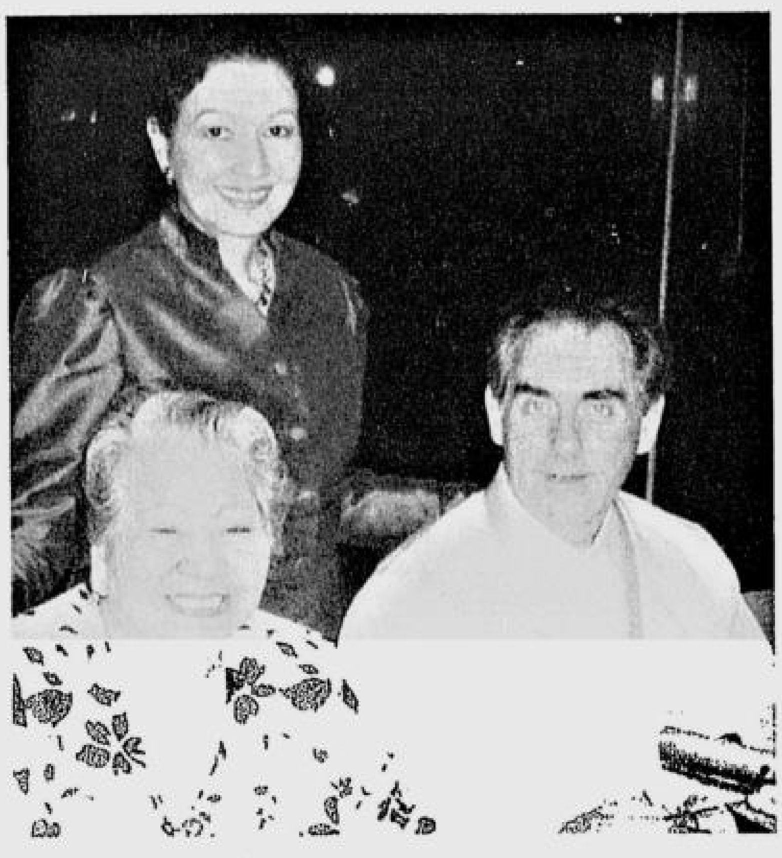
Ingrid Sala Santamaria, the PPP artistic director, thanked the audience and numerous sponsors, particularly **Dieter** and **Zenaida Reichert** who came to Cebu just for the event. In the audience was former Cebu City Mayor **Ronald Duterte**, currently the president of the University of Southern Philippines. The university's concert hall, which is about to be completed, will be home to PPP.

After the concert, there was a dinner party in honor of professor Kanngeiser, Mr. and Ms Reichert and Jeffrey at Tequila Joe's, hosted by Ingrid's dear brother, **Jose Sala**, and his beautiful wife, **Susan Montenegro Sala**. Ingrid used the occasion to announce the dates and venue of the next concerts in the PPP season.

The next one will be at 6 p.m., April 24, at the Atlantic Ballroom of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Professor **Ariel Perez**, also with the PPP faculty, will conduct what is labeled as "Musical Milestones." It will open with Bach's Concerto for 2 Violins in D Minor, with soloists **Sara Maria Gonzalez** and **Christine Ybañez.**

Three delightful pieces featuring **Omar Mataganasas** as marimba soloists follow—Mozart's "Rondo Alla Turca," **Vittorio Monti's** "Czardas" and the "Sabre Dance" by **Kachaturian**. Just as entertaining will be **Benjamin Britten's** "Simple Symphony" whose movements tell it all: Boisterous Bourre, Playful Pizzicatto, Sentimental Sarabande, Frolicsome Finale.

The concert's finale will undoubtedly bring the house down as the entire PPP will be playing Broadway classics with the inimitable **Rochelle Vega** as singer. Music lovers from all over the Visayas and Mindanao are encouraged to be in Cebu on April 24 for the concert. Tickets will be available at the door at P1,000, P500 and P250. Students pay P100.



INGRID Sala Santamaria (standing) with Jo Magsaysay and cellist Claus Kanngeiser

'Fantasy' show

The third and final concert of the PPP season, "Choral Fantasia," will be held at 6 p.m., May 22, also at the Waterfront Hotel's Atlantic Ballroom. It will be conducted by professor **Roberto del Rosario**, responsible for all the band's excellent arrangements.

Opening numbers will be **Rossini's** overture for "Semiramide" and the Fantasy for Flute and Orchestra in **Verdi's** "La Traviata," with **Martin Alvarez** as the flute soloist. "Isabayan," a composition by professor Del Rosario, follows.

DIETER and Zenaida Reichert

The choral part comes next with the combined voices of the University of San Carlos Choristers, University of Southern Philippines Chorale and Voices of Cebu Choir performing the "Hallelujah" from **Handel's** "Messiah," Mozart's "Ave Verum" and excepts from **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** "Phantom of the Opera."

The concert concludes with the PPP Chamber Players doing a medley of **George Gershwin** favorite works. Kudos go to all PPP members: first violins—Brian, Sara, **Ebb Galindo, Joseph Franz Lanzaderas, Rodelio Clodove, Maricel Mañus, Joseph Patrick Balo** and **Wyneth Ibales**; second violins—Christine, **Marie Antoinette Gorgonio, Rogie Marie Parajes, Marie Vic Briones, Jun Rey Parajes, Bianca San Diego, Nigel Paul Abarquez** and **Elise Nicole Catalan**; violas—Gerry, **Genevieve Galindo, Adrian Beltran** and **Hara Hernando**; cellos—**Gerry Graham Gonzalez** (principal), **Jibbie Rose Reyes** and **Aristeo Solares**; bass—**Christopher Mañus** and **Virgilio Ylaya**; harpsichord—**Miracle Romano**; flute—**Martin** and **Shiela Ycong**; French horns—**Mark Melecio** and **Basilio Sable.**

THE BIRTHDAY celebrator blows the candles of his cake along with granddaughters Isabel and Anna.

DR. Cris Serrano and wifeDr. Pat with some of their guests

70 years old and unbeatable

By Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo
Contributor

IT was an evening of celebration for the 70th birthday of the outstanding cardiologist of Davao Doctors Hospital (DDH), Dr. Crisostomo Serrano, on Feb. 24.

Hard-working and committed Tito Cris, as I fondly call him, looking so debonair in a crisp white cotton dress shirt, was warmly greeted by colleagues and close friends at Picobello Ristorante Italiano in breezy downtown Davao. It was impressive to see such a huge gathering of respected medical practitioners, all of whom arrived on time for the 7 p.m. dinner.

Swiss-Italian restaurant owner Romano Venutti (with Swiss partner Marcus Kiehl) along with his very attractive Davaoeña wife, Rochelle Venutti, made special arrangements to accommodate the 60 or more well-wishers.

Hosting the bash was the alluring and energetic partner-for-life of Tito Cris, internal medicine specialist Dr. Pat Serrano. She gracefully went around greeting guests, checking in every once in a while to see how their appetites were holding up to the plentiful feast that started yet hardly ended with such mouth-watering dishes as Italian sausages, *pollo al forno*, pizza, grilled salmon and lamb with can't-do-without risotto.

And that was just to name a few of the many classical dishes this hub is best known for! For your visit, try not to miss the pizza, from the vegetarian to the protein-rich—all with carbo-blowing fluffy pizza crust at that. It's what most of us crave for.

The equally hard-working Serrano children were all in attendance. There were the ever-charming ophthalmologist, Dr. Junjun Serrano, and his flawless wife, dermatologist extraordinaire Dr. Cecil Serrano, in a flattering figure-hugging black column dress, and their three winsome little daughters—Isabel (11), Katrina (8) and Anna (6).

Youngest son, intern Dr. Ronnie Serrano, entertained a smaller group of doctors at a table next to his father. Daughter Gigi Serrano-Casino, unfortunately, was unable to join them as she is residing in the US with her husband, Indiana interventional cardiologist Dr. Philip Casino.

Delightful songs

As the evening came to a rise, we all gave delighted ears to surprise song numbers from granddaughters Isabel and Katrina.

The enchanting warm voice of Rochelle Venutti, gracious as ever, gave us a few contemporary tunes. And not to put down the crowd desirous for a serenade, the dapper former stage actor and Bayanihan dancer Nonong Iñigo obliged to perform as well.

Seen enjoying the evening were many distinguished guests, such as DDH chair Dr. Honorio Hilario, Teddy Cruz and Menchu Iñigo.

Huddled together were the spouses of the distinguished doctors and other equally gorgeous guests: Cora Belisario, Merly Tan and Purita de la Cruz; captivating Connie Lopez (nurse and wife of Dr. Al Lopez, VP of DDH) and Aida Iriarte (wife of Dr. Sonny Iriarte); and University of Santo Tomas anesthesiologist Dr. Loy Ayroso and EENT specialist Dr. Eve Talento.

Also enjoying the songs was the ever youthful Teresing Magpantay, a senior medical technologist and wife of the late DDH board member, Dr. Benny Magpantay.

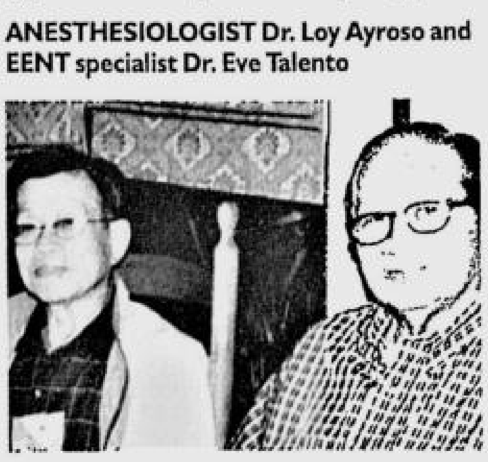
As the merry-making went on well after dinner, we found ourselves enjoying our *tiramisus* while listening to the voice of Teddy Cruz, whose on-the-spot song number was warmly applauded by everyone, notably by the charismatic cardiologist Dr. Daniel de la Paz and his wife Alma.

I joined them at their table where I sat side by side with young entrepreneur Baby Jaldon and his lovely financial consultant wife, Mitzi Jaldon; and Mati Davao Oriental's beautiful coffee-and-cakes maven, Rochelle Rabat-del Rosario, and her handsome husband, Rodney del Rosario, senior VP for the Anflo Group of Companies.

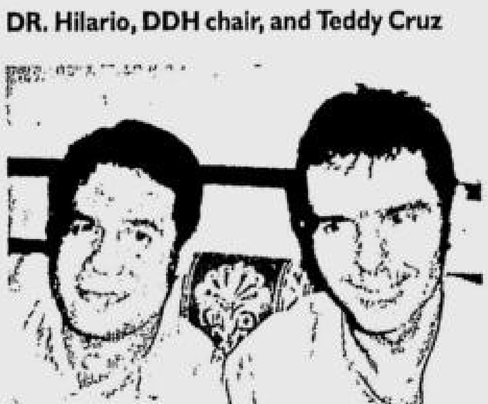
Completing the circle of M4 couples were Drs. Junjun and Cecil, who were never too far away to cozy up with us for a warm and engaging chat.

Luckily for me, my hubby, Anton Lagdameo, the VP for south operations of Anflocor, whisked in from a meeting with business partners before the party was over.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST Dr. Loy Ayroso and EENT specialist Dr. Eve Talento



DR. Hilario, DDH chair, and Teddy Cruz



BABY Jaldon and Romano Venutti

RODNEY del Rosario, Junjun Serrano and Anton Lagdameo

A TOAST to Doc Cris!

THE M4 ("Mares Four"): Dr. Cecil Serrano, Mitzi Jaldon, the author and Rochelle del Rosario

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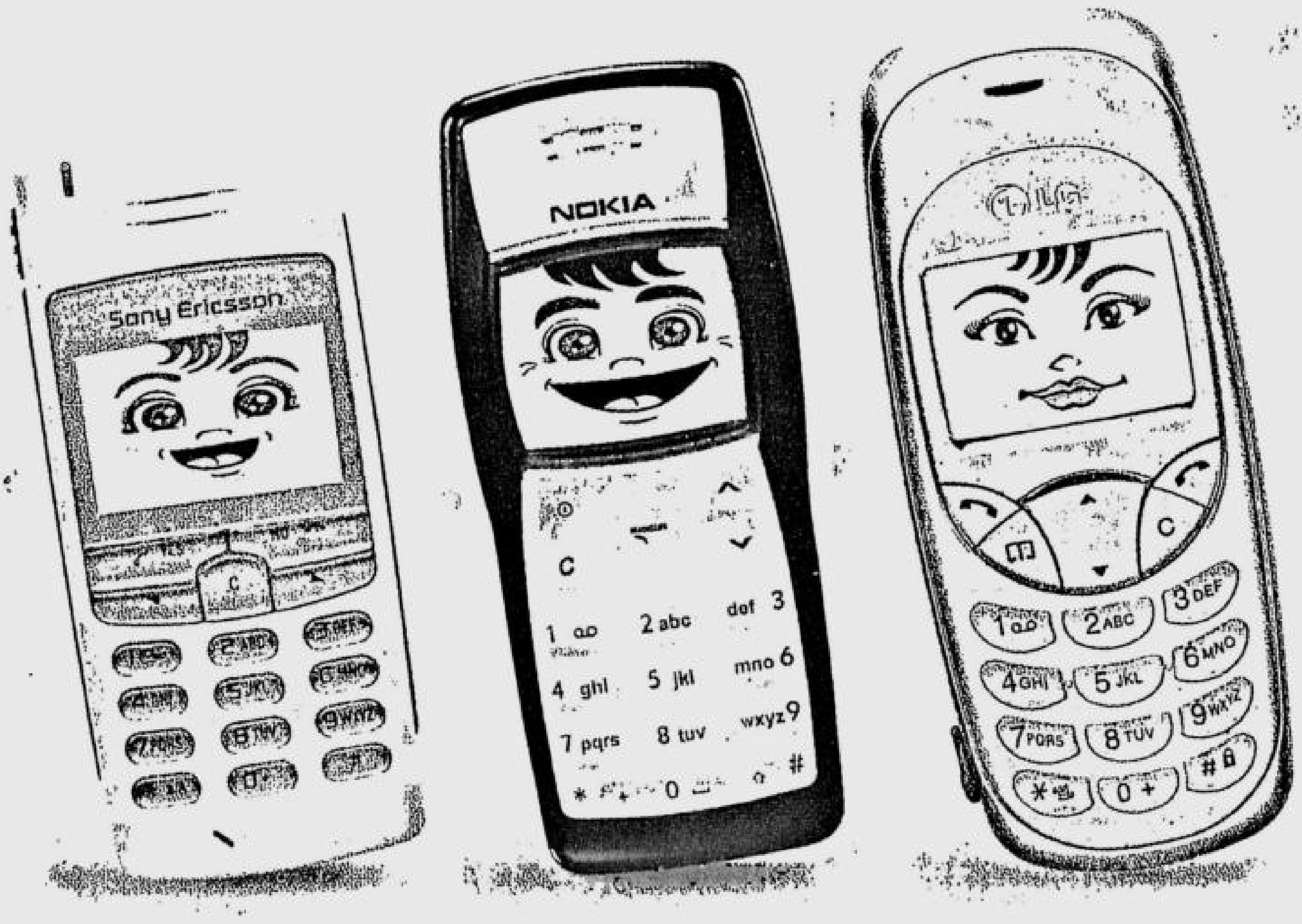

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THESE cuddly creatures are the most beloved of all Easter symbols because they represent new life and renewal. Rabbits are among the many cute critters on display at the Tagaytay Highlands Animal Farm.

Fun-filled weekend

IF WILLY Wonka had a chance to celebrate his Easter weekend anywhere, it'd definitely be at Discovery Suites.

On April 11, let the whole family participate in the Paschal Mass to be held at the Discovery Center Lobby at 10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch at the Café Berrio follows at 11:30 a.m. This will definitely pump up all the members of the family for a fun-filled afternoon, from 2:30 p.m. onwards at Candyland!

Snow cone, popcorn, cotton candy carts, giant balloons, live bunnies, magic and more await the kids. They can engage in recreation in inflatable houses or join The Candy Man in games, storytelling and other fun-filled activities all happening at the 42nd floor.

Call 6352222.

Egg hunting

DREAMSCAPE, an indoor theme park and family entertainment center, welcomes Easter with a fun and exciting egg-hunting activity dubbed the Easter Egg Hunt Craze 2004.

The event will be held at Dreamscape in Robinson's Galleria on April 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration will be held at 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Egg-hunting will begin at 2 p.m.

Joining the revelry is easy. All Dream Day (ride-all-you-can) ticket holders can join. Walk-in guests who will purchase a Dream Day ticket on Easter Sunday can also participate. There will be magic shows and Bunny Mascot dance number that will add more fun to the event. Call 6362911/ 6347420.

A 'hippity hoppity' day

KIDS will adore the live Easter bunnies that Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, will give away today, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., when they win in the mall's Easter *pachinko* game at Carousel Court, level 2.

To play the *pachinko*, customers must present receipts from any store in the mall worth at least P500 (single or accumulated). They will then be entitled to a maximum of three games. Only a maximum of three receipts are allowed per player. Other prizes at stake include gift packs from RFM Corp. and Monde Nissin.

Meanwhile, kids can join the Easter egg painting session of Precy Brady Art Workshop at 1 p.m. and Children's Easter party at 2 p.m. at the Pixie Forest Kiddie Amusement Center, level 3. A magic show, fun games, mascot entertainment, face painting and balloon twisting await kids. The kid with the most colorful and creative Easter egg and game winners will receive special prizes. Admission is free.

Kids and their parents can also visit the ongoing Psalm & Praises and Summer Garden exhibits at Carousel Court. Summer crafts, home décor items and garden must-haves are available from House of Praise, Devine Heart, Cholo's Arts & Crafts, Isadora Creation, Yishun Enterprises, Jories Arts, Green Minds Flower and Plants, Beauty Blossoms, Genesis, JJNM, Mabuhay Orchids, Don Jon Guitar, Philippine Christian Bookstore, Tess Décor, Homebody, Ten Crafting, Tina and Trisha, Yantan Collection and Island Rose Garden.

Call 8503514.

Easter-rific day

IT'S a day full of fun activities for kids aged 3-12 at the Brick Road in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall today.

Join the Easter bunny costume contest and get a chance to win cash, gift certificates and a pair of cute bunnies. Fill up a registration form available at the Ad & Promo department and attach a photocopy of the child's birth certificate. Only the first 30 registrants will qualify for the contest and will automatically be part of the egg hunt activity. Call 6815401 local 109.

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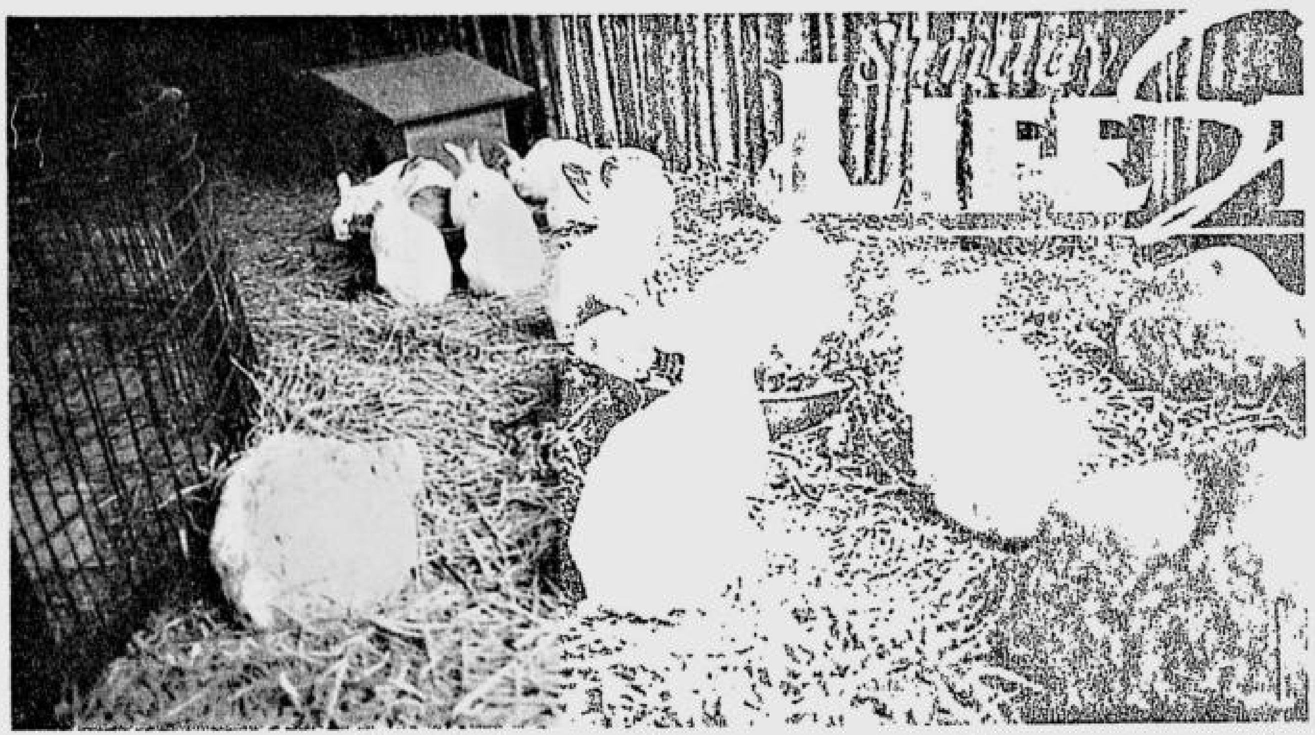

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Joining the revelry is easy. All Dream Day (ride-all-you-can) ticket holders can join. Walk-in guests who will purchase a Dream Day ticket on Easter Sunday can also participate. There will be magic shows and Bunny Mascot dance number that will add more fun to the event. Call 6362911 6347420.

A 'hippity hoppity' day

KIDS will adore the live Easter bunnies that Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, will give away today, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., when they win in the mall's Easter *pachinko* game at Carousel Court, level 2.

To play the *pachinko*, customers must present receipts from any store in the mall worth at least P500 (single or accumulated). They will then be entitled to a maximum of three games. Only a maximum of three receipts are allowed per player. Other prizes at stake include gift packs from RFM Corp. and Monde Nissin.

Meanwhile, kids can join the Easter egg painting session of Precy Brady Art Workshop at 1 p.m. and Children's Easter party at 2 p.m. at the Pixie Forest Kiddie Amusement Center, level 3. A magic show, fun games, mascot entertainment, face painting and balloon twisting await kids. The kid with the most colorful and creative Easter egg and game winners will receive special prizes. Admission is free.

Kids and their parents can also visit the ongoing Psalm & Praises and Summer Garden exhibits at Carousel Court. Summer crafts, home décor items and garden must-haves are available from House of Praise, Devine Heart, Cholo's Arts & Crafts, Isadora Creation, Yishun Enterprises, Jories Arts, Green Minds Flower and Plants, Beauty Blossoms, Genesis, JJNM, Mabuhay Orchids, Don Jon Guitar, Philippine Christian Bookstore, Tess Décor, Homebody, Ten Crafting, Tina and Trisha, Yantan Collection and Island Rose Garden.

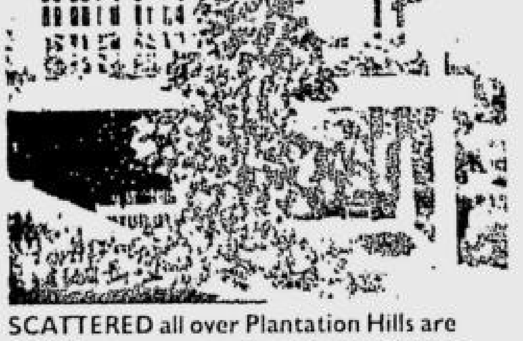
Call 8503514.

Easter-rific day

IT'S a day full of fun activities for kids aged 3-12 at the Brick Road in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall today.

Join the Easter bunny costume contest and get a chance to win cash, gift certificates and a pair of cute bunnies. Fill up a registration form available at the Ad & Promo department and attach a photocopy of the child's birth certificate. Only the first 30 registrants will qualify for the contest and will automatically be part of the egg hunt activity. Call 6815401 local 109.

FUN 13



SCATTERED all over Plantation Hills are 5,000 Easter eggs and one Golden Ostrich Egg containing a special prize.

Here, there's more to shopping and mall hopping

TOKYO 東京
So Japa
Cool off this summer with the newest dessert, Mango Summer Chill.
•Located at 2nd Floor, Glorietta 1•

SENTRO 1771
Modern Filipino Cuisine by Chateau
continue capturing the flavors of modern Filipino cuisine as we introduce our new
special takes await our valued
•Located 3•

minimum purchase of P
dish for minimum purchase of P
for a minimum purchase of P1000
Valid up to May 31

freshaire
20% off on hair coloring for Freshaire club members
Valid up to April 15
•Located at the Ayala MRT Station•

TOKYO OSAKA MANILA
太った BOY 少年
The FAST CASUAL dining Japanese restaurant
Free Kaki Tempura for a minimum purchase of P1000
Valid up to April 18
•Located 3•

Customers with minimum purchase of P300 can pick a prize from the Easter basket
Valid on April 11 only
•Located at Ground Floor 4•

STYLETTO
20% discount on selected items
Valid up to April 30
•Located at Ground Floor Glorietta 3•

for minimum
Valid on April 11
•Located Floor, Glorietta
Greenbelt 1•

INK for Less
THE LARGEST PROFESSIONAL INK REFILL STATION
•Loca 2•

501 JEANS WEAR IT FREE-STYLE
•Located at the Ground Floor of Glorietta 2, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu•

LIZ claiborne
Free gift for every minimum purchase of P2,500
•Located at 2nd Floor, Glorietta 4•

BOSS HUGO BOSS
Spring Summer 04
•Located Ground 4•

AYALA MALLS
Customer service text hotline: 0917 6095900 • Customer service hotline Glorietta from 10 am 8 pm
Greenbelt 757 4853 from 11 am to 12 mn Alabang Town Center 842 782 from 10 am pm

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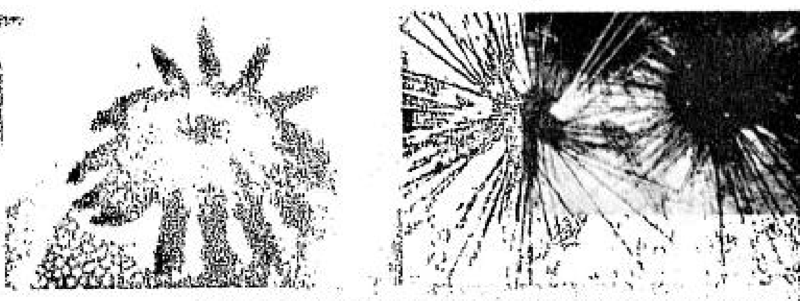
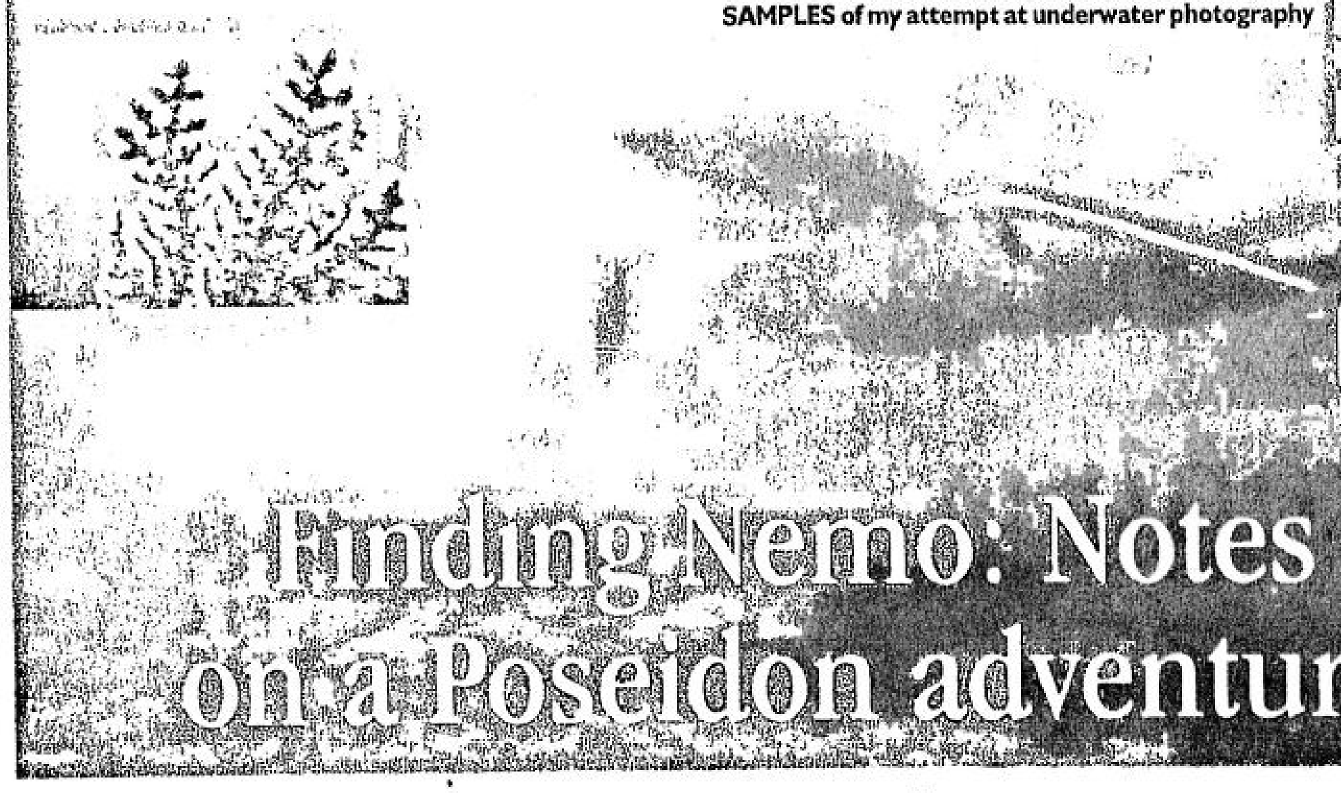


SAMPLES of my attempt at underwater photography

DIVERS unite. The group after seeing the mantas



LET'S save the mantas of Ticao.

Finding Nemo: Notes on a Poseidon adventure

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

LET me get right to the point: the mantas are worth the 12-hour bus trip to Sorsogon. Waiting for a sighting of them underwater is worth it because they are magnificent creatures. The mantas are worth losing a degree or two of the shade of your L'Oreal hair color due to the salt water and sun exposure. But most importantly, mantas are the reason why it is worth educating the fishermen to stop dynamite fishing and switch to proper techniques. Mantas explain why fishermen need to diversify into ecotourism.

All this I realized when one weekend last month, my friends planned a trip to Ticao Island, a diving area at the tip of Sorsogon province. This trip was almost canceled due to every imaginable excuse—the full moon would make the currents too strong (that's the trouble with diving, you sometimes need to swim), inconclusive reports of recent sightings (that's the trouble with wildlife, they're unpredictable) and people just backing out due to schedule conflicts (that's the trouble with people, they're too busy).

After so much debate, we took neither the plane nor the train but the bus. And what an experience it was!

The Philtranco Gold Service bus is a 29-seater with only three seats across and aisles between the seats. They recline like airplane seats (economy, of course) but have plastic covers so one tends to slide when the bus hits a sudden stop.

Similar to the plane, the service requires you to be at the bus terminal at least one hour before flight time. And just like the on-time service of Cebu Pacific, the Philtranco bus leaves as scheduled. It just flies a bit lower. But it is amazing that some things work well in this country of ours. We should never lose hope.

Important key points to remember: Book your seats early so you can stay as far away as possible from the toilet. Unfortunately, the toilet of this particular bus didn't flush, so you can imagine the 10th hour of the trip was, how shall I put it? A "Fear Factor" challenge.

Bracing myself for the 12-hour haul, I positioned myself into my seat covered with blankets and pillows. As the bus was ready to depart, the uniformed bus attendant said her spiel, "Welcome to Philtranco, non-stop to Legaspi. For your convenience, there is a toilet in the rear of the bus. We will be serving dinner and drinks so sit back, relax and enjoy the ride." Or something like that. You don't really think I took notes, do you?

The meal they served was Jollibee Burger Steak. Sumptuous if you were into gravy; if not, it was straight to Starbucks. When the bus stopped for gas, I headed to the other options. It was also the last toilet on land.

Even with all the contortions yoga has taught me, finding the perfect sleeping position was a challenge. I would doze off from time to time with an occasional feeling of unpleasantness due to the toilet door opening.

Lysol, please! And make that extra strength.

Our fresh-looking bus attendant announced that we had arrived. What? Did I miss breakfast in bed? It was great to finally get closer to our end goal: the mantas.

Hunt

After settling into our rooms in the only hotel in town, One Concepcion Place, we sorted our diving gear and all-important snacks between dives. Our Ticao host diver, **Conz Paz** of Adventure Bound, briefed us with the current conditions and method of entry. Also, he offered a T-shirt to the diver with the most sightings—the manta magnet.

Finally, finally, we were headed to the site on the extra large *bangka*. All prepped with our signature drug, a 12-hour Sudafed for decongestion, we were geared up for our underwater adventure. I must have prayed to all the saints and even asked for king Nemo to stir the mantas in our direction.

Because of the strong currents, the group was split into couples, each with their divemaster. I took so long to equalize (releasing the pressure on your ears), we drifted into another section of the reef. But then it's a huge, 10-hectare reef, so it was okay because my buddy and divemaster were right with me.

So engrossed with the little nudibranchs, tiny, colorful, snail-like creatures without shells, I didn't realize my husband **Dennis** was hysterically screaming because there was a 12-feet-wide manta hovering over me. Hello? I momentarily forgot we were 60 feet underwater!

The manta stared and circled around me before zooming off. I was so ecstatic that I was on a high until we hit the water again. Unfortunately, my digital camera case fogged up so I only took its silhouette so the group just had to take my word for it.

Our eventual manta magnet was dashing diver buddy, Ting **Feliciano**. He took even longer than I did equalizing, so they must have drifted into new territory. He said he also saw schools of giant tuna.

The champion snack supplier on the boat was his wife, **Berta**. Not that the packed lunch was not enough, but munching while exchanging stories was perfect. The best story was **Nathan Floro**'s backwards, underwater moonwalk upon his close encounter with a tiger shark the size of a whale shark.

His adventure reminded me of my Tubbataha diving experience when sharks were seemingly attacking me. I froze, with my arms outstretched pretending to be a coral in hopes of deceiving them. But the sharks clearly weren't fans, and kept swimming away with hardly a glance in my direction. To this day, we call that my shark pose.

Tough gang

On our next dive, we met four mantas, just cruising the reef bottom like a gang of tough guys on a city sidewalk. I was so mesmerized I didn't know whether to look or grab my camera. By the time I had turned it on the homeboys had sauntered off. Now that I am starting to take underwater photos, I appreciate the likes of photographer **Gutsy Tuason** and the clarity of his shots. Right there and then, I just decided I am better off in front of the camera instead of behind.

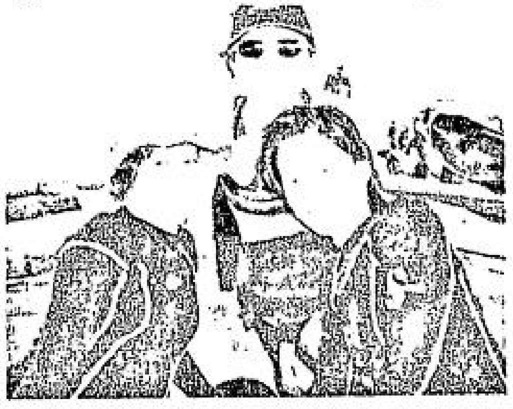
After dinner and shopping (yes, I found their little native store), Conz told us about Rays of Hope. It is their program to help save the manta rays of Ticao. Thanks to INQUIRER's feature on it last year, ecotourism has picked up.

In fact, several weeks later, he told me his dive included hammerheads, schools of thresher sharks, barracudas, giant dogtooth tuna, eagle and stingrays and giant wrasse. All that was inclusive of the huge mantas.

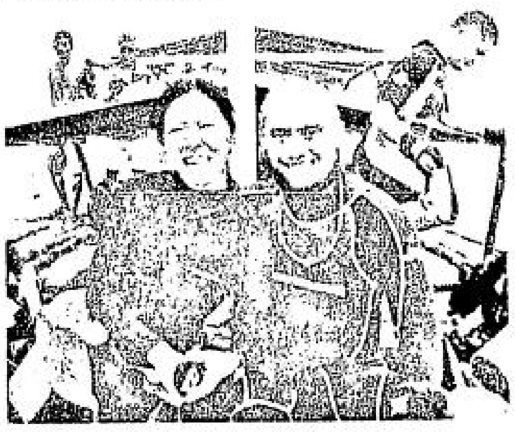
So what did I discover that weekend? Although we were slightly early into the season, seeing even just one manta was incredible. It didn't matter that the only Saturday action was the rooftop disco whose muffled bass permeated through every nook and cranny of One Concepcion Place, which is an effective way of contraconception, I might add.

I also discovered the exciting variety of Chowking as a fast-food alternative to Jollibee Burger Steak. I also realized I can get by a weekend with just my Havaianas flip-flops. And I discovered that sharing the week end with old and new friends, including some underwater, winged ones, is priceless.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

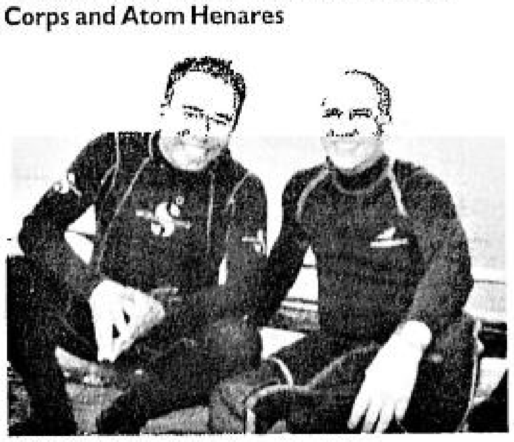


OCEAN beauties. Sea Princess, Jeena Lopez and Berta Feliciano

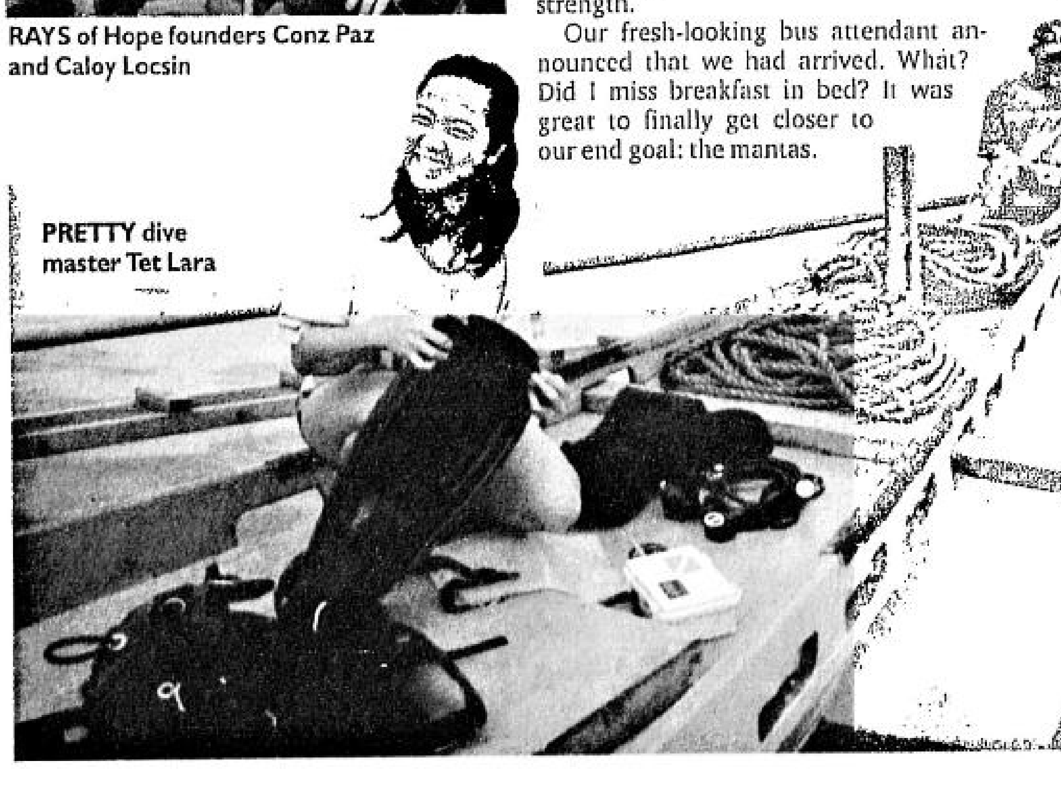


ADVENTURE couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez

MANTA lovers Bonnie Stamper of Peace Corps and Atom Henares



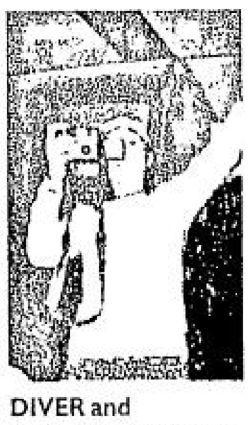
RAYS of Hope founders Conz Paz and Caloy Locsin



PRETTY dive master Tet Lara

DIVE buddies Nathan Floro, Ting Feliciano and Ernie Lopez

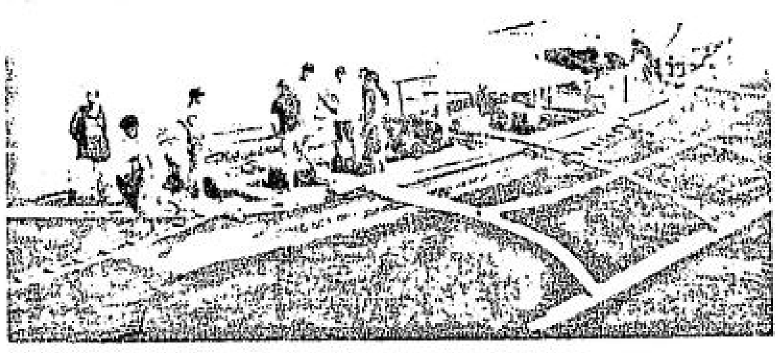
Welcome
ONE CONCEPCION PLACE
VIDEOKE BAR



DIVER and photographer Jeena Lopez of Play Underground

ONE Concepcion Place, resort-Ticao style

UNDERWATER kids



BANGKA trip in Ticao

INSIDE the Philtranco express to Sorsogon

PHILTRANCO

EFFICIENT staff of Philtranco bus company

Fun-filled weekend

From page I1

The Brick Road is located at the East Wing Open Carpark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway corner Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal.

Great funfare

PINK Patio Boracay has prepared the grand Easter Funfare for all kids (guests and non-guests) and their families in celebration of Easter Sunday.

Registration fee for guests is P50 and P100 for non-guests wanting to participate in the various games. Kids who register will get name tags and snack stubs.

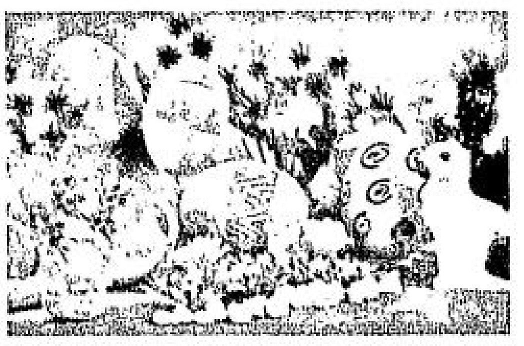
Games to be played are Egg catching, 5 pairs of children ages 3-6; Egg on bottom cup (Egg Relay) to be played by 3 groups of 5 kids ages 7-12; Egg bowling 2 games, 10 kids per games; Swing the basket, 2 groups of 5 kids, mixed age; Pabitin, 2 games, all kids, groups of kids ages 3-6, 7-12; and Egg hunting, where all kids can participate.

Day of magic

TREAT kids to Easter revelry at Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati.

No less than 400 fluffy bunnies will be given away at Independent Lifestyles, located at the second level (beside Nullah). Starting at 10 a.m. on April 11, the first 400 customers who present a single minimum purchase worth at least P500 from any mall establishment will go home with a new pet bunny.

What's more, every corner of Power Plant Mall will be bustling with activity. Starting at the North Court, pre-registered kids 12 years old and below will be thrilled with magic tricks, a puppet show, jugglers, games, a world-champion yoyo master and an egg hunt at participating establishments to cap off the day's activities.


JOIN Dusit hotel's egg hunt at the garden.

The first 250 registrants will participate in the activities at the mall's North Court. On Easter Sunday, 50 more registrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Activities open to the public at the South Court will include a face painter, kiddie salon, glitter and henna tattoo, bubble show, balloon twisting and cookie painting. Easter goodies and baskets and cotton candies will be given away.

Activity for parents and kids

SHANGRI-LA Plaza will hold a mall-wide Easter egg hunt open to parent-child teams. Children from 2 to 12 may join their moms or dads as partners. The unique egg hunt requires each team to collect eggs from the mall's boutiques and stores. The eggs come with color-coded stickers that the team members will have to fix in the correct spot on maps that will be handed out before the hunt.

After collecting all the eggs and affixing the stickers on their maps, the team may validate their maps in a verification center located at the Grand Atrium. Participation to the hunt is on a first come-first served basis. The hunt is for 150 teams only.

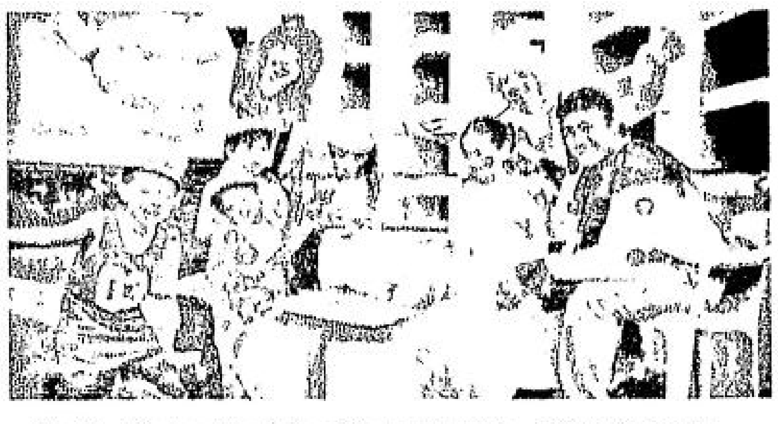
Visit wonderland today

CELEBRATE "Easter Wonderland" at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 11, at the grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Bring the family (maximum of four) and join the hotel's egg hunt at the garden for a chance to win major prizes like accommodations in beach resorts, toys, pets and more.

There will also be parlor games and magical acts. Bring a one-of-a-kind Easter basket and have a chance to bring home prizes. Open to all kids aged 3 to 10, simply bring your jazzed-up Easter basket 9 a.m., April 11, and register at the registration area.

My Easter Garden drawing contest is open to kids, 5 to 10 years old, dining at the café.



To join "Easter Wonderland," guests must avail of the Easter Sunday brunch buffet at The Café or dine in any outlet of the hotel on Easter Sunday. A minimum single receipt of P850 gets two free tickets to the event. Call 8673333.

Eesteruption

MANDARIN Oriental Manila features Easteruption today at the ballroom. Egg hunt begins at 9 a.m. Kids can also join the Lego block-building contest, egg and face painting, puzzle forming and balloon twisting and watch Mad Science experiments. Brunch buffet tickets at Paseo Uno and Tin Hau, inclusive of a ticket to Easteruption sell at P1,280+ for adults and P640+ for children ages 5-12 years old. At Tivoli, a brunch set menu, inclusive of a ticket to Easteruption is offered at P1,450+ for adults and P725+ for children ages 5-12 years old. Call 7508888.

TRADERS Hotel Manila invites guests to partake of the hotel's Easter celebration package from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children will have the chance to win prizes during the egg hunt and kiddie games. Jimboy clowns and an Easter bunny mascot will entertain the kids. Face painting for children and a magic show will also be held. Call 5271991.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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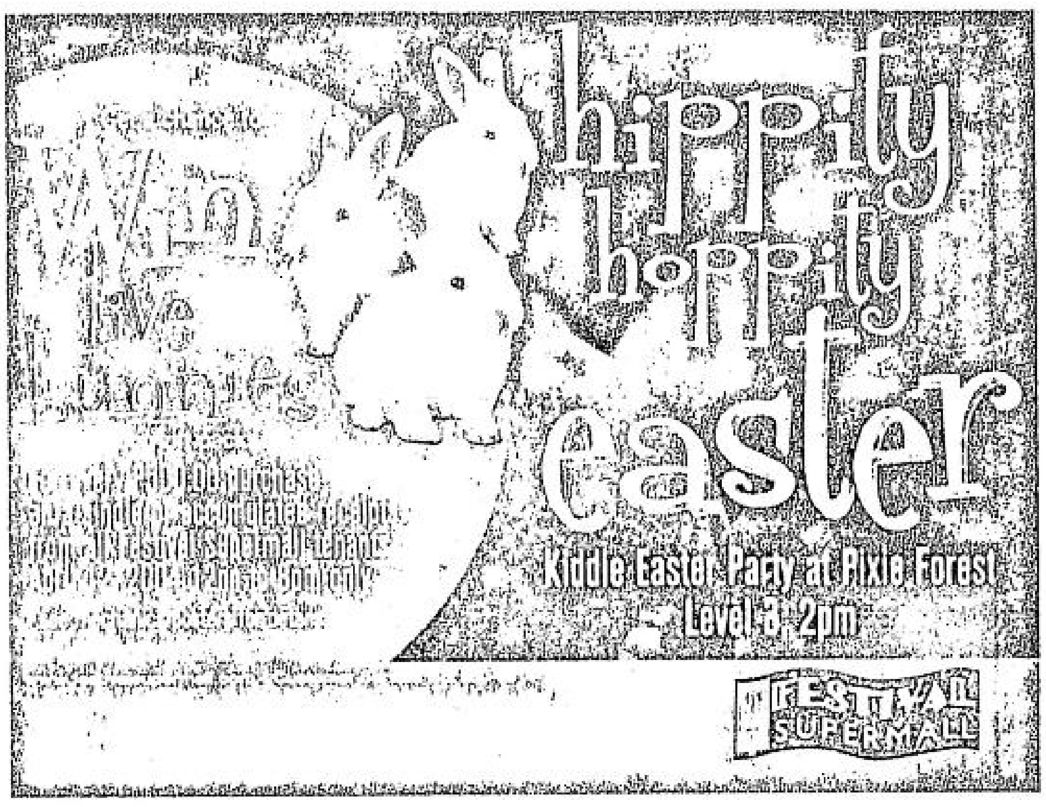

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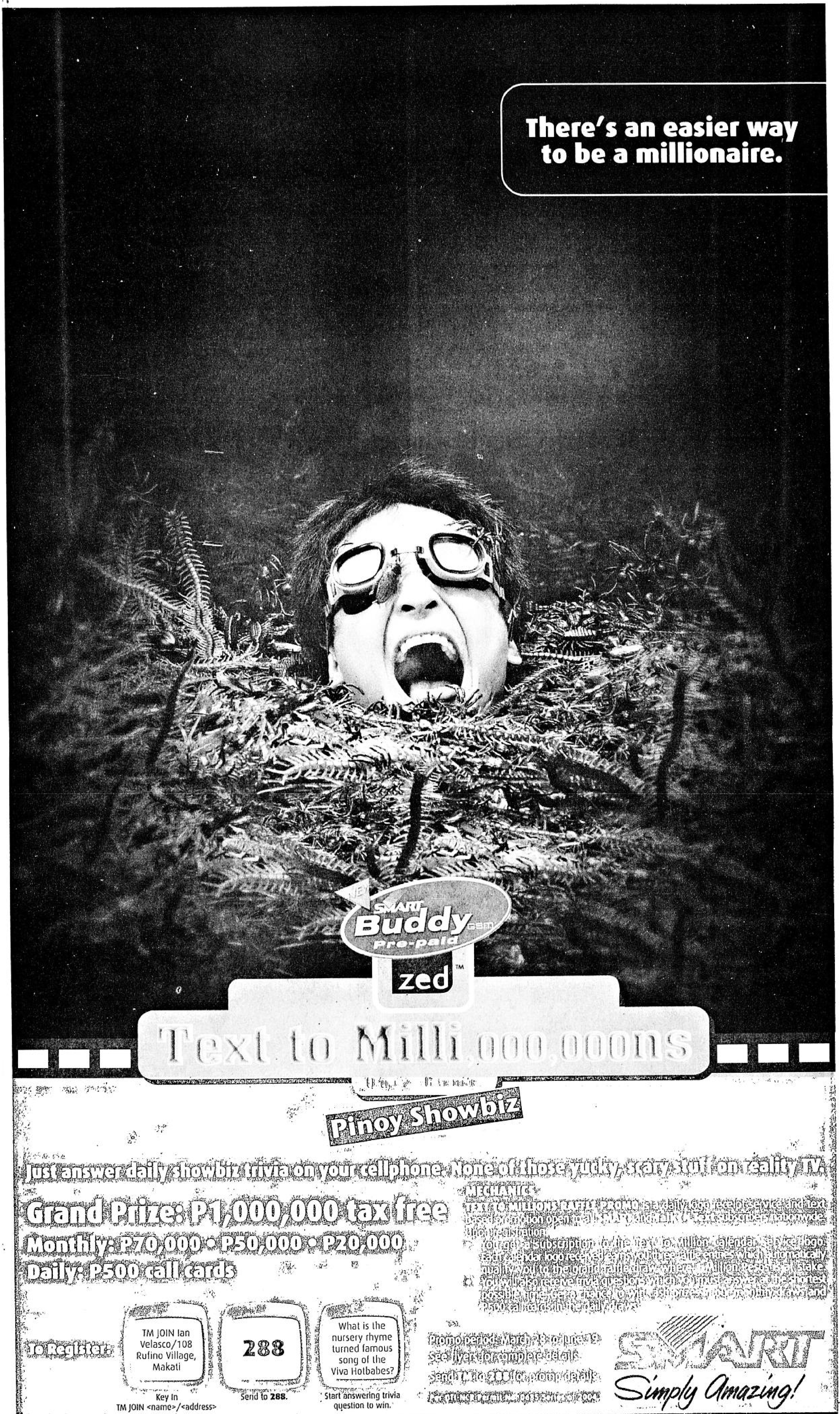

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MECHANICS

TEXT TO MILLIONS RAFFLE PROMO is a daily logo receipt service and text based promotion open to all SMART [illegible] text subscribers nationwide. Upon registration:

- You get a subscription to the Text to Millions calendar service/logo. Each calendar logo received earns you three raffle entries which automatically qualify you to the grand raffle draw where 1 Million Pesos is at stake.
- You will also receive trivia questions which you must answer [illegible] possible time [illegible] chance to win [illegible] P500 call cards in the daily draws.

Promo period: March 28 to June 19

See flyers for complete details.

Send TM to 288 for promo details.

[illegible]

SMART Simply Amazing!

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Sunday LifeStyle

Hollywood celebrities and the international jet set can't get enough of LA-based Monique Lhuillier's creations

PINAY POWER. Fashion designer Monique Lhuillier (below); a dress from her Spring/Summer 2004 collection (left)

World fashion's new darling is a Filipina

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

HERE'S something we can all be proud of. A Filipina is making waves in the international fashion scene. She has received rave endorsements from **Oprah**. **Jamie Lee Curtis** wore her clothes during this year's Oscars. And in Vanity Fair's 2004 Hollywood issue, **Allison Lohman** ("White Oleander," "Big Fish," "Thirteen") donned her gown in the celebrated cover. What started as a bridal and evening gown design house has launched an entire line of ready-to-wear clothes.

The world of big-time glamour has indeed welcomed **Monique Lhuillier**, the daughter of **Michelle** and **Amparito Lhuillier** (one of Cebu's illustrious families). She has captured the hearts of Hollywood A-listers and the critical eyes of fashion editors.

LA-based, Monique frequents both coasts to attend parties and gatherings with Los Angeles and Manhattan's elite. Last year, she was inducted as a member of the prestigious and influential Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), where fellow Filipinos and trailblazers **Josie Natori** and **Rafe Totengco** are also members.

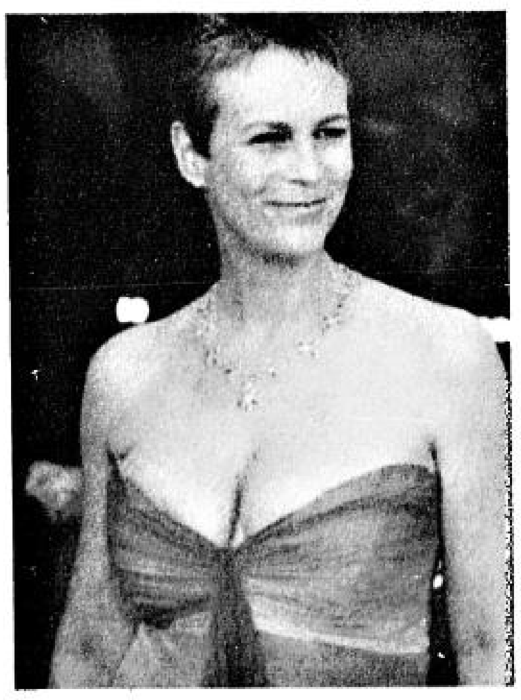
The Philippines took notice of Monique's creations when she designed Broadway star **Lea Salonga**'s wedding gown. Now, there are talks of her coming home to do a major fashion show at the end of the year. When this pushes through, it would be a sweet homecoming.

Must-have CD—Michael Bublé's "Come Fly With Me." When he was here this year for a series of concerts, I must admit I was "Bublé'd Out." I did not go to any of his concerts, just a dinner given for him at Max Brenner. But with his launch of his new CD "Come Fly with Me," my focus and attention is once again on the Philippines' favorite crooner.

In the new album, Michael puts his inimitable spin on several new standards, including "My Funny Valentine," "Mack the Knife" and "Can't Help Falling in Love." The enhanced CD also includes live performances, interviews and backstage footage.

Speaking of singers, good friends **Virgie Ramos**, **Nedy Tantoco**, **Randy** and **Irene Francisco**, **Francis** and **Maryanne Lumen** and **Cris Villonco** were able to watch my favorite male

WORLD/ J3



JAMIE Lee Curtis at the Oscars 2004

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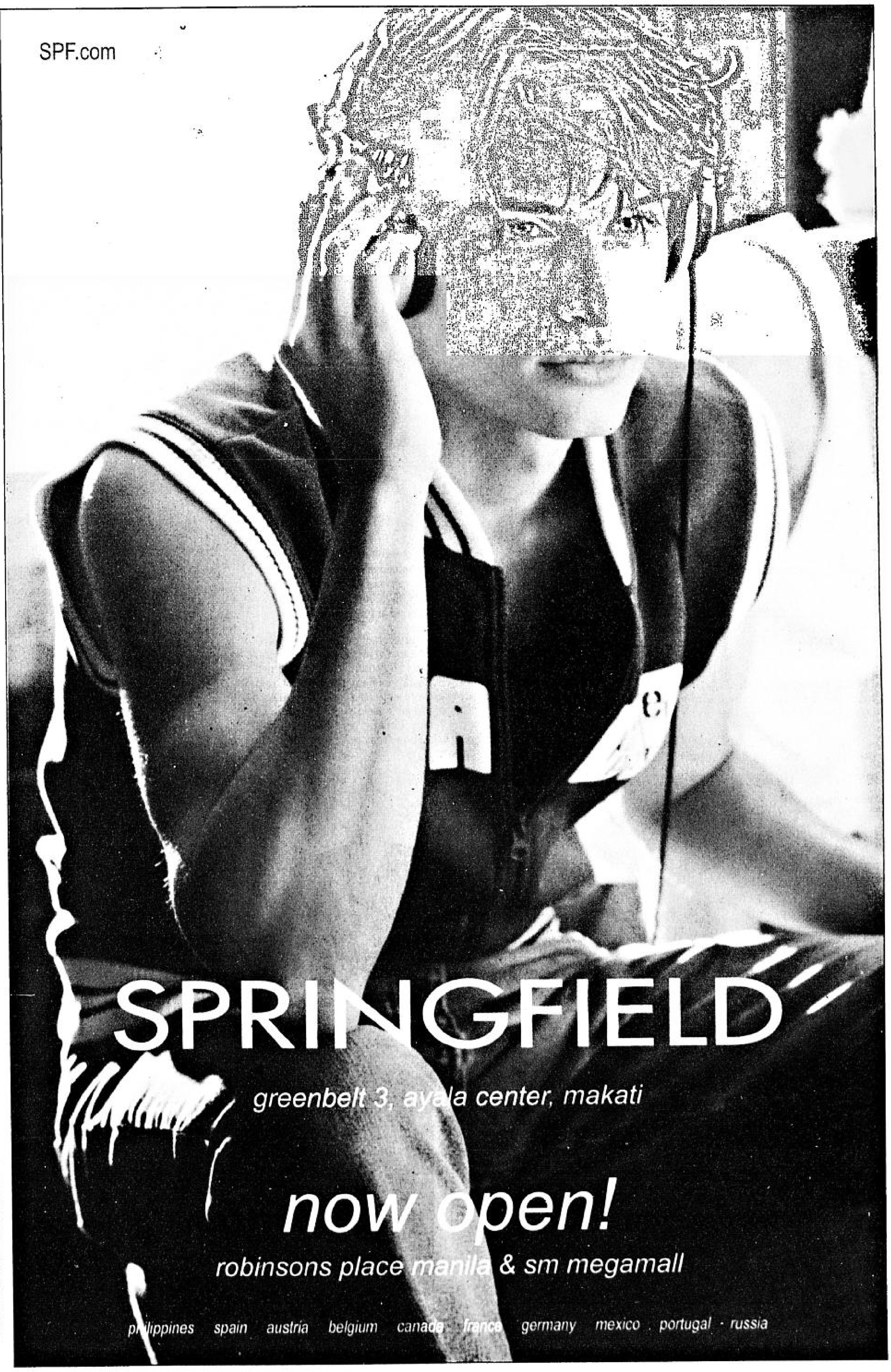

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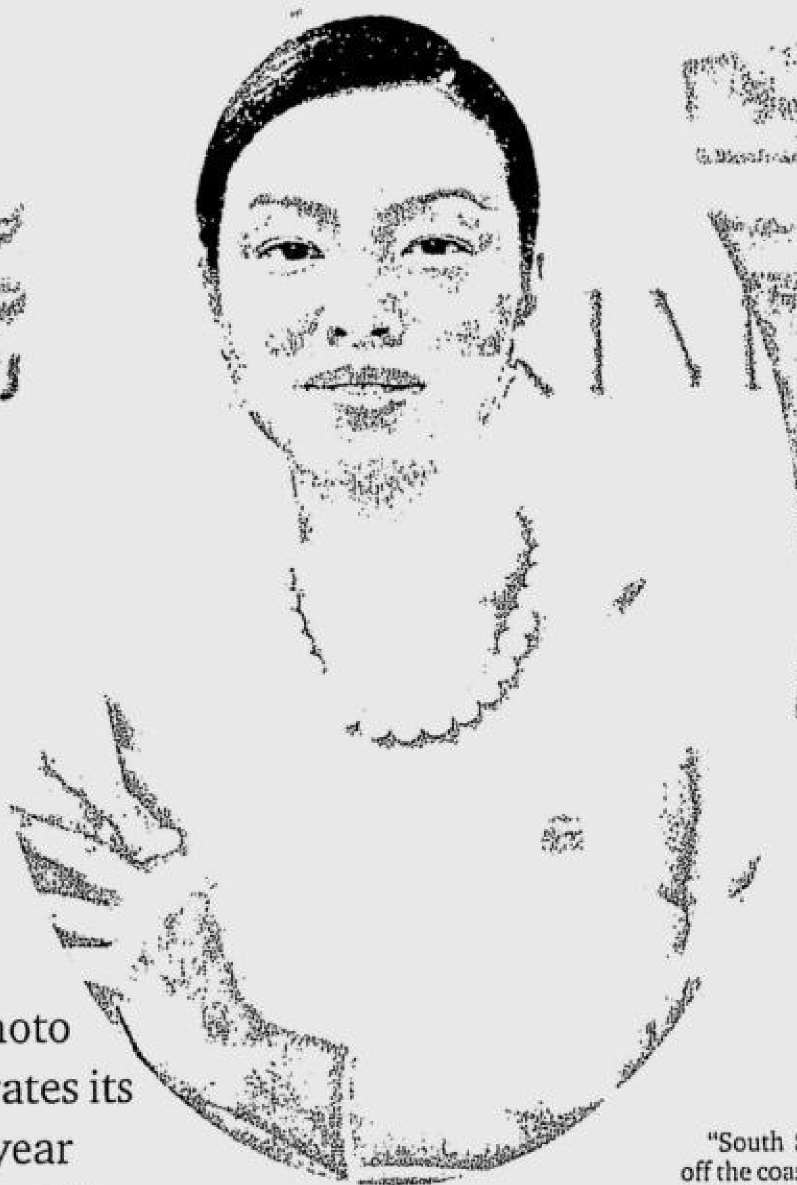
These pearls are, without doubt, for real

Mikimoto celebrates its 25th-year partnership with Rustan's with a to-die-for new South Sea pearl collection

BLACK South Sea pearl ensemble consists of 10-mm pearl earrings set in 18-karat gold, 13- to 16-mm pearl necklace set in 18-karat gold and 10.6-mm pearl ring studded with diamonds and set in platinum.

ONE of the late Princess Diana's favorite chokers is made of five strands of pearl accentuated with diamonds and set in 18-karat yellow gold. The earrings are also accented and set in the same materials.



THE STARS of the collection are these pinkish South Sea pearls. The necklace alone, which consists of 13- to 16.9-mm pearls, costs P9,800,000. Both rings and earrings are priced at P425,000 each.

BLACK South Sea pearls are set in platinum and accentuated with spirals of diamonds.

A CLASSIC piece set in platinum with its Mikimoto "M" clasp studded with diamonds

THIS black South Sea pearl ensemble is set in 18-karat white gold with diamonds.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OUT of the thousands of pearls sourced by Mikimoto from various pearl farms the world over, only five to 10 percent are used by the Tokyo-based jewelry company's in-house designers.

The rest, says Toshiyuki Kumai, managing director of Mikimoto & Co. Ltd., end up being sold to other jewelry companies with less-than-exacting requirements.

"We don't use just ordinary pearls," says Kumai. "Each pearl that makes up Mikimoto necklace, earrings and ring should be as round as possible and should possess a certain thickness and unmatched luster."

Kumai and Mikimoto assistant general manager Shunji Nishihara recently flew to Manila to grace the 25th year of Mikimoto's partnership with Rustan's Department Store, its exclusive distributor in the Philippines. Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, Sr., chair of the Rustan's Group of Companies, led in welcoming guests that included members of high society and the diplomatic community.

On top of the regular jewelry pieces on display at the Mikimoto corner in Rustan's Makati, Kumai and Nishihara brought with them the company's limited edition of rare baubles made from the finest South Sea and Ayoka pearls.

The pieces were presented in an afternoon fashion show featuring some of the country's top models. Interested buyers have only a month to make up their minds or to convince their husbands to buy them. Unsold Mikimoto pieces will be supplemented with new items before they're exhibited to other parts of Asia.

"This high-end collection the models are wearing," says Kumai, "is usually not displayed in the shop. They're better appreciated when worn."

"South Sea" pertains to the warm waters off the coast of such countries as Australia, Indonesia, Tahiti and the Philippines, to name a few.

The Philippines, says Kumai, is known for producing exquisite pearls with a deep golden hue, while Tahiti is famous for its black—more like dark bluish, actually—pearls. These bodies of water are known to produce some of the biggest, most brilliant and most expensive pearls in the world.

"Through years of exposure," says Peachy Badilla, Rustan's AVP for luxury, "I can easily distinguish a set of Mikimoto pearls from a more inferior brand. It [Mikimoto] stands out because of its unique luster and almost perfect shape. It's [Mikimoto] the diamonds among pearls."

With tints ranging from pink to greenish blue to brown, Mikimoto's latest South Sea pearl collection, consisting mostly of several sets of necklaces, earrings and rings, is mostly set either in 18-karat gold or platinum with diamonds either studded or done in spiral shapes—which make them all the more expensive.

Take the five-strand Ayoka pearl choker, which, at P1,300,000, is said to be one of the late Princess Diana's favorite pieces. It comes with a matching set of ring and earrings also studded with diamonds.

The pinkish-white Ayoka knitted pearls set with diamonds and a huge South Sea pearl as its focal point (P2,200,000) is said to be Mikimoto's modern adaptation of an antique design. The South Sea pearl ring (P745,000) and earrings (P765,000) both set with diamonds on 18-karat gold are said to be versatile enough to wear with your other Mikimoto pieces.

Incidentally, the Ayoka and South Sea pearls come from different oysters, but the color of the pearls in this particular ensemble are said to match perfectly.

The collection's piece de resistance in the latest South Sea pearl series is easily a necklace of huge pinkish white South Sea pearls set in 18-karat gold with a yellow and white gold clasp. With diameters ranging from 13 to 16.9 mm., the pearls that make up the necklace are almost perfectly round, and comes with diamond-studded rings and earrings also set in 18-karat gold.

With a price tag of P9,800,000 for the necklace, and P425,000 each for the rings and earrings, these deep-sea beauties are more than just real pearls. They're irrevocably Mikimoto.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

CRISELDA Lontok, Tessie Kabigting, Manet Holmgrem and Rustan's VP for Marketing Services Vida Estrella

INQUIRER columnist Bambi Harper, Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Rustan's Group of Companies chair

RUSTAN'S AVP for Luxury Peachy Badilla, Mikimoto's assistant general manager Shunji Nishihara, journalist Joanne Ramirez, Mikimoto's managing director Toshiyuki Kumai and Rustan's Silver Vault merchandise manager Menchu Baliza

RUSTAN'S Commercial Corp. president Bienvenido Tantoco Jr. and British Ambassador Paul Dimond

SPECTACULAR shoot. Wallpaper magazine's April 2004 issue goes to Amanpulo

World fashion's new darling is a Filipina

From page J1

singer **Josh Groban** in concert at the Radio Music Hall in New York recently.

Virgie (who was lucky to meet Josh) called me, gushing about how cute and nice he was. Irene sent me an SMS saying how wonderful his performance was, and how his voice was simply divine. Although I am so happy for these fortunate individuals, I am sooo jealous!

But I hear there is good news: negotiations are under way to bring Josh to Manila by the end of the year. Now that's something to watch out for, for the legions of Grobanites out there!

Wish you were here. The April 2004 issue of Wallpaper features a 12-page fashion shoot in Amanpulo, highlighting the beauty of the island while showcasing some of the hottest labels in the world.

Fashion shoots like this one are not to be taken lightly and should be seen as a source of pride for us. After all, we don't come out in major international magazines every month. Despite what the world thinks of our politics and economy, we still have so much to offer in terms of travel destinations and investment opportunities.

Must-have accessory—bag tags. In a recent Time magazine issue, fashion and style editor **Kate Betts** named bag tags as one of the hottest accessories to have this year. Bag tags are so hot that major international fashion houses such as Celine, LV and Prada are jumping on the bandwagon.

Think of it as charm bracelets or trinkets for your bag. What makes it so coveted is that it adds drama, fun and individuality to your bag, and manages to update it in a jiffy.

The accessory can be made by any enterprising individual (or people who have a lot of time in their hands). So calling all fashion entrepreneurs, this is going to be big!

TNT sound bytes. Here's a checklist of what to do for the month of April: Check out the Legazpi exhibit at the National Museum. Get a copy of **George Michael**'s new CD "Patience". Visit Tickle, a website that's as interesting as Friendster but more fun, since it offers tests for IQ, EQ, compatibility, personality, what's your puppy's personality, etc.

michael
fly
me

MUST-HAVE CD—Michael Bublé's "Come Fly with Me"

Watch out for **Tom Ford**'s own fashion line slated for next year. In an interview with Women's Wear Daily, the hot designer says he might do his own line but is not ruling out the possibility of directing a movie.

Buy Von Dutch caps. It's the hottest street brand today, worn by celebrities and members of high-society.

Revisit Kashmir, located at Festejo Building, 816 Pasay Road, Makati, for the best Indian food in town. Then go to Red Box, the *karaoke* place in Greenbelt 3.

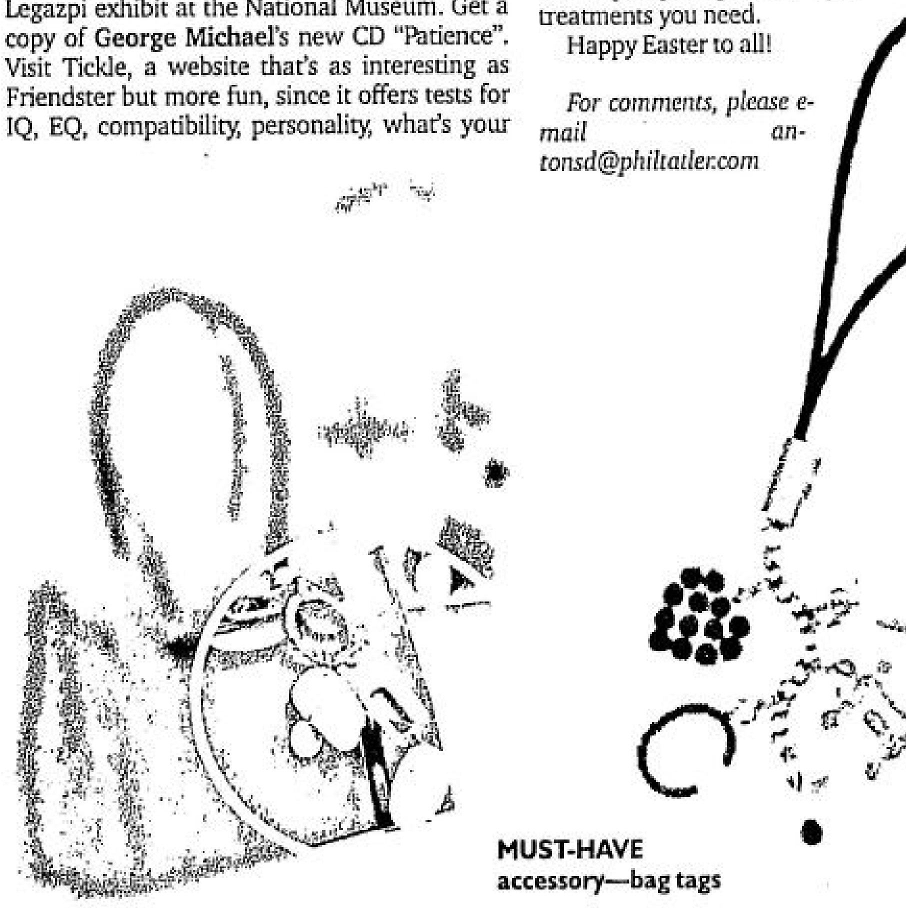
Want a tan but don't have the time? Try the latest spray tanning method. **Vicki Belo**'s clinic and Basement Salon offer the procedure.

Read "Bergdorf Blondes," the first book by "it" girl and US Vogue contributing editor **Plum Sykes**. Try a new hair style—for men, short and cropped, for women, big and curly (Take note: not the *matrona*, helmet-hair variety).

When in Boracay, stay in the new villas at Mandala Spa, where you can get all the world-class pampering and spa treatments you need.

Happy Easter to all!

For comments, please e-mail antonsd@philtatler.com



MUST-HAVE accessory—bag tags

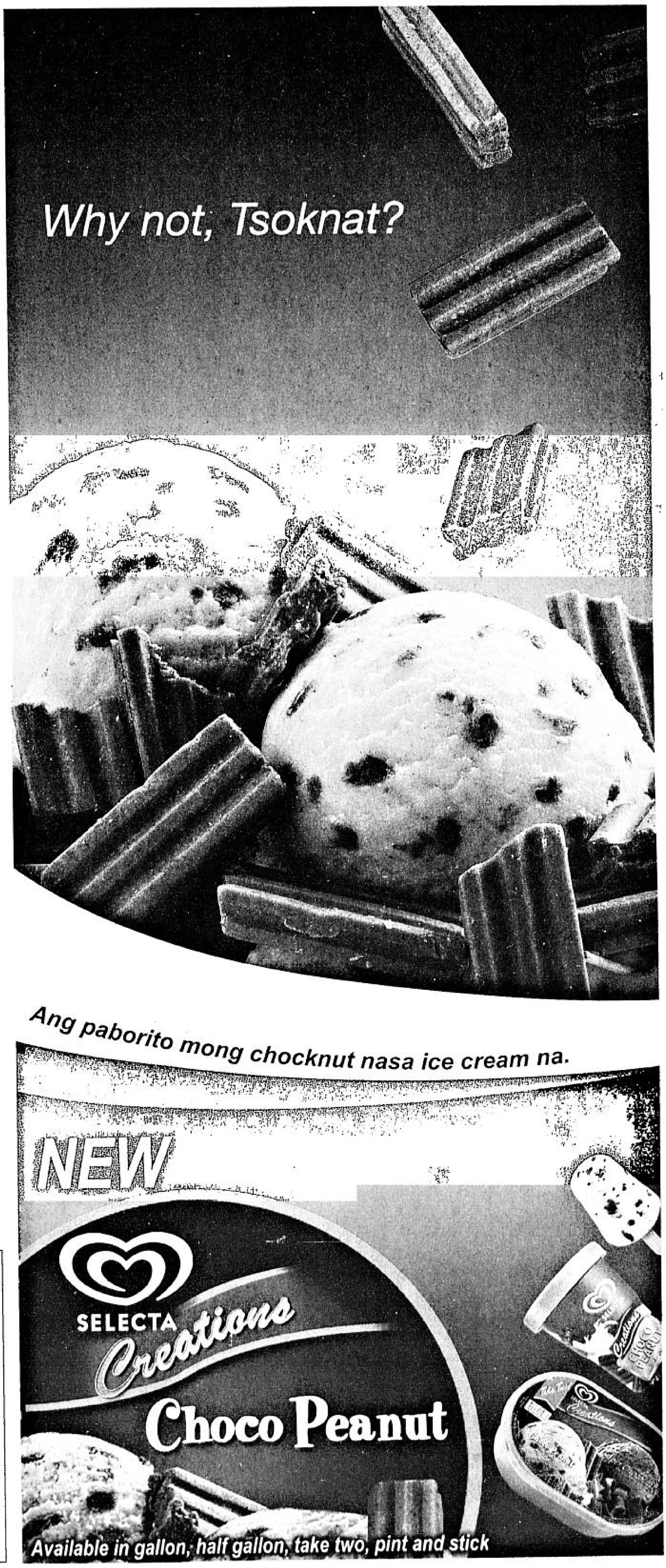
Value-packed prepaid phone kit

HERE'S another unbeatable deal from Sun Cellular: the Sun Cellular Sureload Prepaid Kit.

For as low as P6,500, subscribers instantly get nonstop mobile connection and the best value-packed deal for a prepaid phone kit.

Unlike other networks' prepaid packages, the Sureload Prepaid Kit comes with a trendy mobile phone and a 64K Navigator SIM that is automatically loaded with P250 and free 50 text messages every month for 24 months. This means almost P6,000 of the price goes to automatic load plus a cool phone. It's like getting the phone almost for free!

The Sureload Prepaid Kit offers six trendy handsets to choose from: Motorola C201 (P6,500), LG B1300 (P6,800), Sony Ericsson T100 (P7,000), Sony Ericsson T230 (P9,900), Nokia 1100 (P8,200) and Nokia 2100 (P8,600). It's available through the Sun shops and selected dealers nationwide. Call 3958000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph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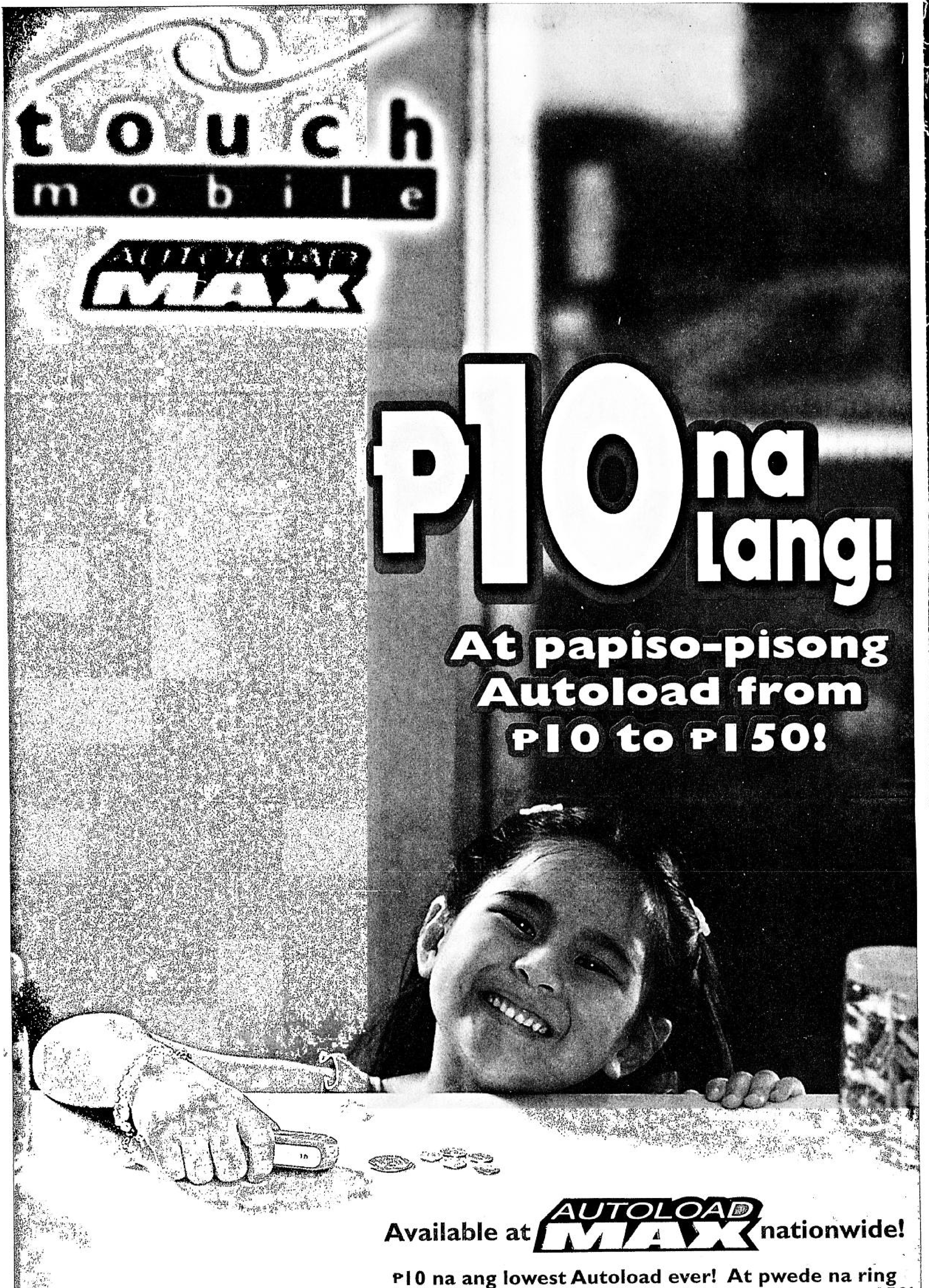

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PATIO Victoria's Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez with daughter Sofia

Discounts for July-Sept. weddings

PATIO Victoria, located at 5435 General Luna corner Victoria Sts. in Intramuros, is offering discounts and freebies to those who will make booking for weddings from July to September.

Couples who make reservations not later than June 30 for July-September will get a five-percent discount on the total wedding package. Patio Victoria will also give free appetizers for the presidential table.

For a minimum payment of P180,000, the couple will have a choice of a complimentary stay at a deluxe room in Manila Hotel or a decorated bridal car.

Patio Victoria's wedding packages range from P69,600 for 100 guests to P337,900 for 300 guests.

Amenities include a choice of menu, one round of soda or juice, torch parade, flowers, signature frame and guest book, three-tiered fondant cake, cage and pair of doves, house wine for the couple, complimentary use of Cristina Executive Suite and free exclusive parking lots.

Patio Victoria can accommodate as many as 1,000 guests. It has two gardens—Sofia and Diana—and an air-conditioned banquet hall.

Owner Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez said Patio Victoria could make arrangements for everything, from flowers and decor to the seating, food, giveaways, cake and even the music.

The discounts and freebies apply to other functions like debut, christening and even corporate affairs.

For more information, call 5278006 and 5261953, e-mail inquiries@patiovictoria.com or check out www.patiovictoria.com

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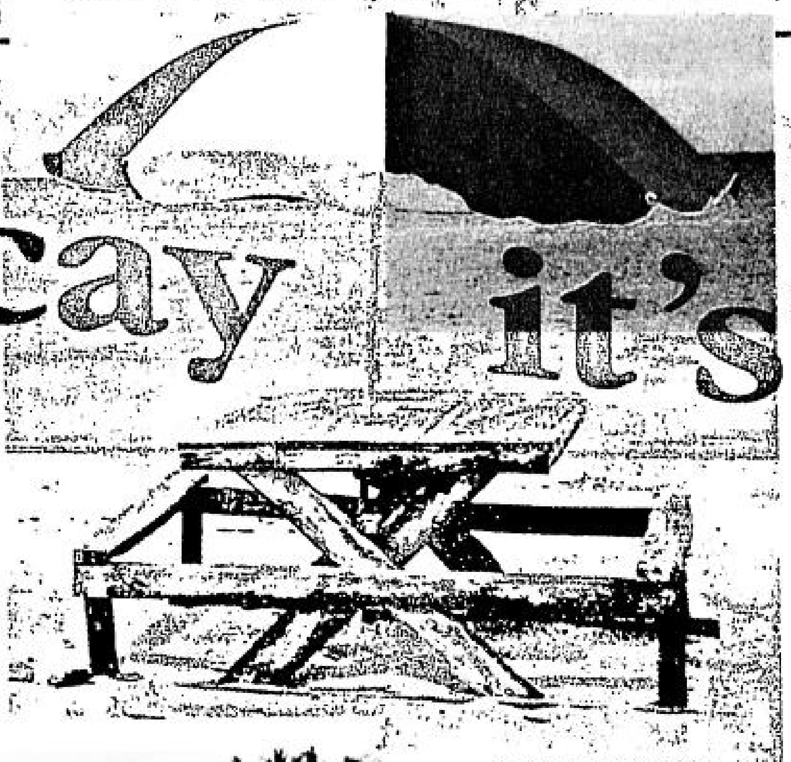
KAYA MAG-TOUCH MOBILE KA NA PARA MA-ENJOY ANG IBA'T-IBANG FAMILY SERVICES, PATI ANG 20% BONUS SA LOAD:

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Boracay it's not

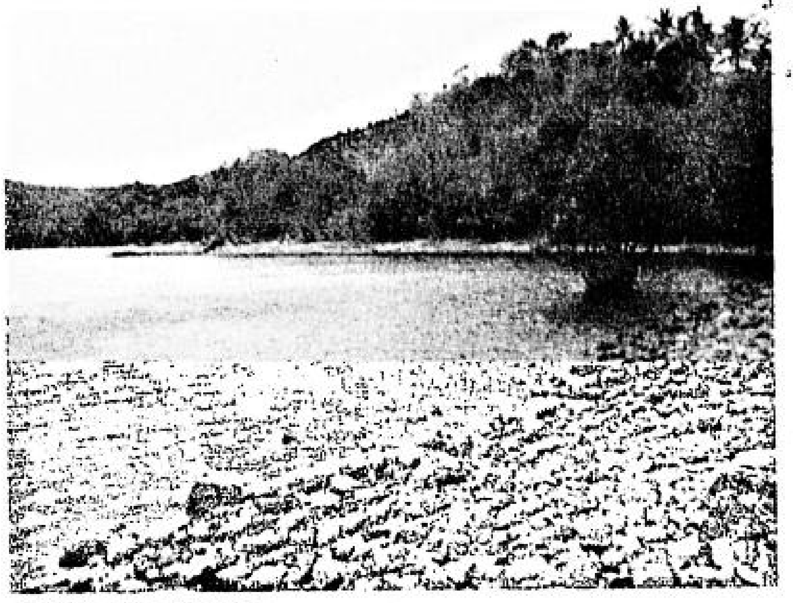


PICNIC-PERFECT

Text and photos by Stella O. Gonzales

IT'S no Boracay, for sure. The white sand on its beach is not as powdery as that on its world-renowned Aklan neighbor. But neither does it have Boracay's swarm of tourists—local and foreign—parading on the strip.

And this is where Aglicay's charm lies.



AFTER a hike, the cove

Aglicay beach resort in the sleepy town of Alcantara on Tablas Island, Romblon, is the answer to the harried office worker's search for serenity and the tourist's hankering for something different.

Sheltered by a hill, it is a very private place, with no visible signs of habitation nearby except for the resort's bungalow-style duplexes. Fishermen don't venture near, the fishing area being quite a distance away.

For company, the only ones you will likely meet are the resort's few guests (if you're lucky, you might even have the entire place to yourself), its few employees, and the owners, Guillermo (Willie) and Glenda Martinez.

There are also Julius and Hubie, the ideal companions for someone who wants to get away from it all, even if only temporarily.

Julius is a German Shepherd who takes pleasure in tearing the husk off a coconut with his teeth and paws. He's a good swimmer, and will look at you with his mournful eyes, pleading for you to take him for a swim.

A word of caution: This 50-kg purebred canine has no idea of his strength and can knock you down in his excitement. Like most dogs, he loves playing fetch, whether on shore or in the water.

Hubie is a talkative yellow-nape Amazon parrot. He belongs to a now endangered species but was acquired by Glenda 20 years ago in the United States as a gift for Willie.

The Martinezes had to endure much bureaucratic annoyance just so they could bring Hubie with them to the Philippines when they retired in 1999. But the hassle was worth it, they say. It's hard not to love this bird who sounds so human.

You will hear Hubie's distinct voice and whistle (he does a pretty good "Indian Love Song") as you relax in your room, the ocean breeze wafting through your window, the sound of palm fronds brushing against each other.

It makes for a fine background as you daydream of a world with no bosses to answer to and no clients to please. Ah, this is the life.

One of Aglicay's attractions is its private beach. And those who find comfort in the presence of water will be delighted that the resort has a "standard" white-sand beach and, at the other side of the hill, a cove.

The water at the beach is very calm, hardly making waves at the time my two companions and I visited last month. (In January and February, the waves are ideal for surfing.) Non-swimmers have nothing to fear: The water is so clear you can see the sand (as well as the seagrass and starfish of various sizes) below. The water is shallow and deepens very gradually.

Onshore, there is no one to ogle you, and you can wear that bikini you've never had the courage (or the figure) to wear. It's entirely possible to lie on the sand or on a chaise as Brazilian samba music, a favorite of the Martinez couple, plays in the background from the dining hall. You'll likely fall asleep, so make sure you're lying under a shade.

You can take a short hike up and down the hill within the resort property and be rewarded with the refreshing sight of the cove, its pristine blue-green water inviting you to wade in and cool off from the hot trek. Instead of sand, the cove has large stones, so you're better off wearing jelly shoes. The water here is calm all year. It's a good place to sit, meditate and read (or write) a good novel. Imagine it—just you, your novel, and the tranquil water.

You can explore Alcantara and its neighboring towns by sea. Take a ride on Hagibis, a small pump boat, and see the solar-powered lighthouse on the island of Calatong.

Try mingling with the local folk and attend one of the local festivities that seem to take place every weekend in the summer. The Martinezes took my two companions and me to the town plaza to watch the Miss Alcantara beauty contest. We were pleasantly surprised to find that some contestants were quite vocal (and intelligent).

JULIOS in his element

One contestant was asked: "If you were in the President's shoes, would you still run even though you had previously declared that you would not?"

The contestant's unforgettable reply (in Filipino): "No, because I would be breaking my word of honor."

Unfortunately, she lost. The contestant, I mean.

The Martinezes run Aglicay with a personal touch. They eat meals (freshly caught seafood, mostly) with you, and entertain you with all sorts of stories.

You'd expect them to talk about American life, having worked in the United States for 36 years. But no, their stories are the type your own relatives in the province would regale you with: life in a fishing village, how the fish catch brought to the town of Looc always ends up in Boracay (just an hour away by pump boat) to fill the hungry bellies of tourists there, the life of Julius and Hubie.

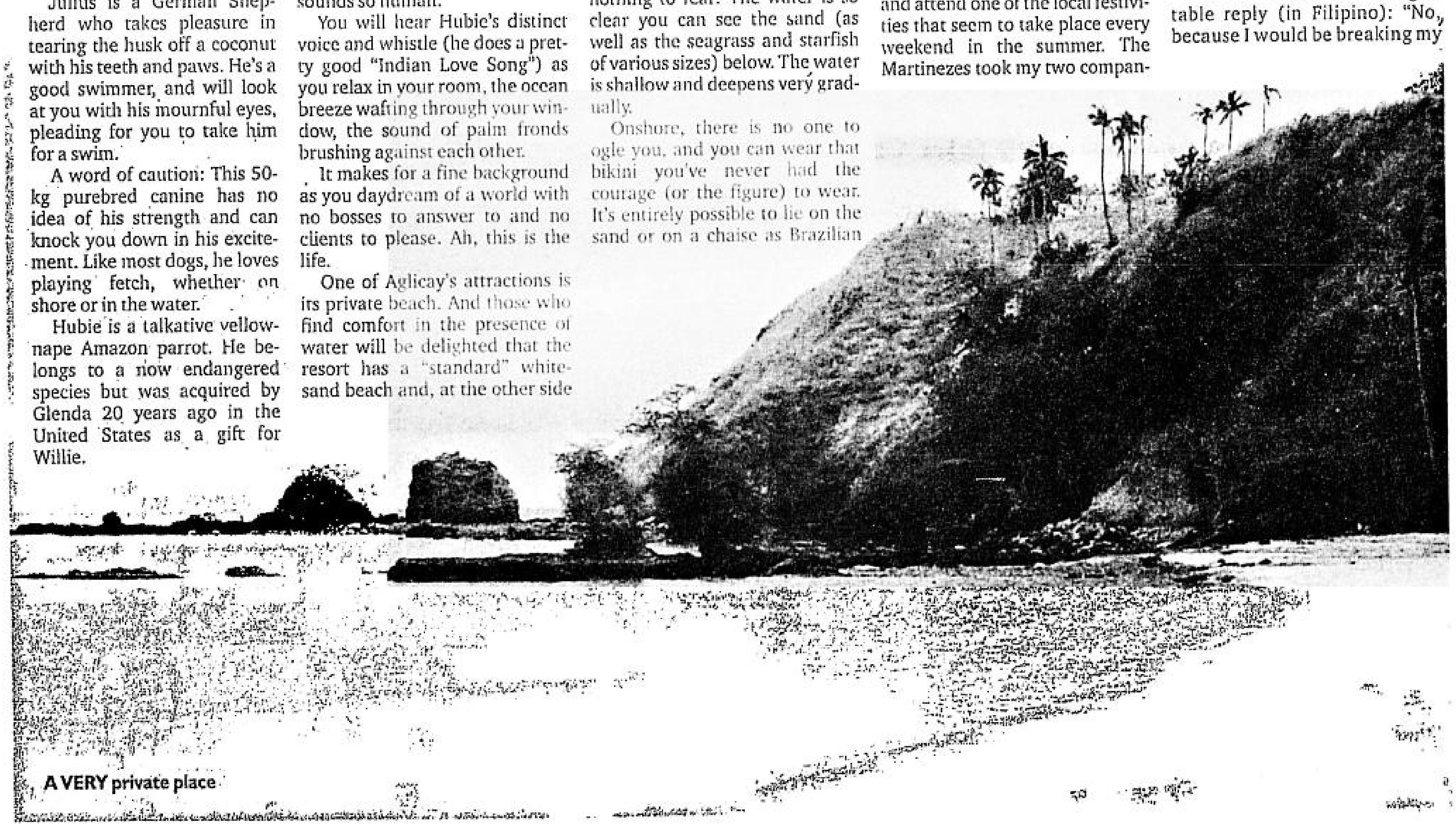
If you so desire, the Martinezes will also tell you how to prepare the simple everyday dishes they serve, such as cucumber-and-turnip salad, which has become my favorite.

If you manage to persuade them, the Martinezes may even teach you the basic steps of the tango and other ballroom dances. (Willie, a physician, took up dance lessons at the Alfred Murray Studios.)

When the time comes for you to leave Aglicay, you will likely feel a pang of sadness and regret—that the days and nights are not long enough for you to enjoy everything the place can offer.

But you'll also feel refreshed, ready to take on the stress of city living. And then you'll find yourself planning for your next trip to Aglicay, just like my friends and I did.

For details on how to get to Aglicay, visit http:\\geocities.com\aglicaybeachresort.



A VERY private place

Mother of all guides

By Constantino C. Tejero

A HANDSOME bimonthly guide for Metro Manila, in full color and on matte-coated paper, is now available for free to the befuddled visitor.

This is something of vital importance that old fogeys and blabbering bureaucrats should have done earlier. Yet it took two young entrepreneurs to get it going.

The guide was conceived and produced by brothers Raymond, 31, and Michael Alimurung, 29, after a vacation in Hawaii over a year ago. There they found "an abundance of free guides available all over the place."

The brothers realized that such a guide was "a basic necessity for the Philippines to establish itself as a premier destination." Four months after that trip, they got a partnership with the Department of Tourism.

"We have more magazines in this country than we really need," says Ray. "But there is no such guide, even in Metro Manila. In the Philippines, we generally lack funding for informational materials."

At the time of Tourism Secretary Vicente Carlos, there was a guide of some 40 pages of glossy paper, one-fourth the size of bond paper, but it was a one-shot deal. Then there was that foldout map, but it only had listings.

Citiguide was conceptualized to be different.

Ray's professional experience in design was as Web designer of Asia Online Philippines. And when Mike was a management engineering student at the Ateneo de Manila University, he founded, developed and published the campus sports magazine Athletica.

User-friendly

When the brothers approached then Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, he said he liked risk-takers but he wanted things done not in a half-baked way. And so the brothers were committed to deliver, with Ray acting as managing editor and Mike as production manager.

"It took us some time to look for advertisers, sponsors," says Ray. "People are always skeptical wi[illegible] they hadn't he[illegible] We[illegible] doing it as a sort of public service. We wanted to help the country. But good intentions cannot survive on their own. We need advertising. There should be a cash flow."

It took them six months to come up with the first issue. It was not so much the writing as the compilation of initial data, such as the listing of phone numbers of establishments, and, of course, the luring of advertisers.

Citiguide was formally launched on Jan. 12 at the Sta. Lucia Gardens in Intramuros, Manila. With an initial circulation of 30,000, it is now available at hotels, embassies, coffee shops, and DOT-designated places such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Intramuros and the tourism office.

"Distribution is good, particularly in coffee shops that have many branches," says Ray. "People there have the leisure of reading while drinking coffee, unlike in bars and restaurants where the lighting is dim, and people go there to eat or drink and not to read."

The guide is visually pleasing and easy to read. It uses the fonts Humanist (for the heads) and Arial (body text), and even stamp-size images come out high-resolution.

It's quite compact. In the section Activities & Adventure, for instance, packed in two pages are 24 activities with an average one paragraph each, excluding the accompanying photos and ads. "Everything's there, not just badminton," says Ray.

It's also handy, using the similar format and size of guides abroad, which the brothers studied before proceeding with the project.

"Guides from all over the world, we have them here in the house," says Ray. "Tourists don't like carrying big guides. Women especially, they like something that they can just stick in their bag."

Comprehensive

The contents are quite comprehensive, too. Unlike other guides that cover only bars, restaurants and shopping areas, or contain only maps, this one includes:

Accommodations (hotels, motels, pension inns); Activities & Adventure (sports, outdoor activities, arts and crafts); Attractions (family fun, zoos, parks); Calendar (festivals and events); City Sights (areas and sights); Dining (restaurants by cuisine); Museums (and memorials); Nightlife & Entertainment (bars, cinemas, live sporting events, karaoke TV);

Tours & Travel (sightseeing and adventure tours, travel agencies); Services/Business (couriers, language schools, medical, salons, network marketing, spas, tailoring); Shopping (malls and shopping centers, shopping by category); Transportation (airlines, bus terminals, shipping lines); and Visitor Information (consulates, emergency assistance, visitor information).

These are supplemented by street and area maps and feature articles. And unlike most guides, which are published annually, this one comes out every two months.

The writing is clean, lean, straightforward and packed with information. Typographical errors are minimal, and even the use of diacritical marks is properly observed.

What initially surprised us was to find tiny but sharp photo reproductions of Luna's "Parisian Life" and "Spoliarium," which cannot be said of even blown-up repros of the same in our leading newspapers.

But what convinced us that this must be the Metro Manila guide we'd been waiting for was when we scanned its cultural calendar and found Jean Cocteau's "Le Testament d'Orphé" listed as attraction at Alliance Française de Manille. In a tight space, it even managed to quote Cocteau describing it as "an active poem."

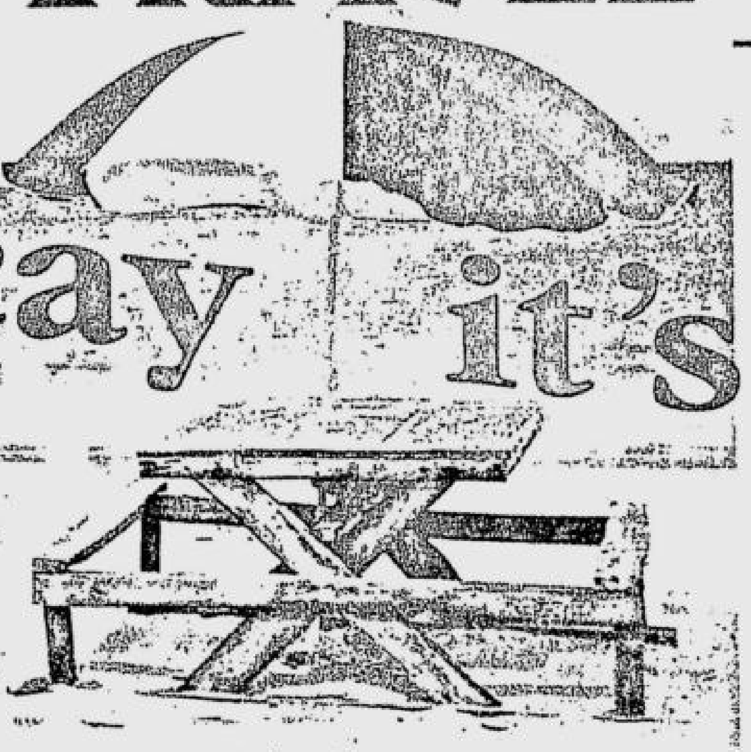
Any guide that makes an extra effort to accommodate such a rarity must be definitive.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Boracay it's not



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For company, [illegible] you will likely meet [illegible] sort's few guests [illegible] lucky, you might even have [the] entire place to [your]self [illegible] few employees and the [illegible] Guillermo "Will[ie]" [illegible] Glenda Martin[ez].

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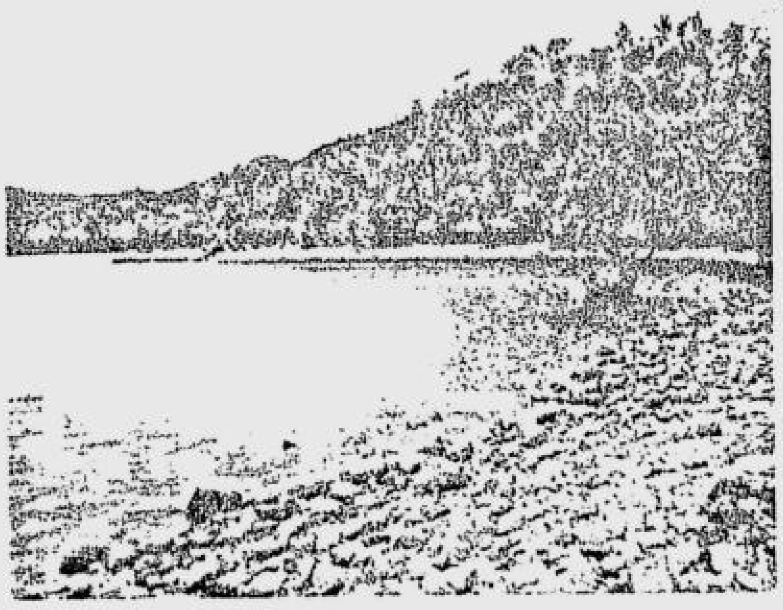

AFTER a hike, the cove

[illegible] Hub[ie] [illegible] [o]pin[g] [illegible] oo B[illegible]

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It makes for a fine background as you daydream of a world with no bosses to answer to and no clients to please. Ah, this is the life.

One of Aglicay's attractions is its private beach. And those who find comfort in the presence of water will be delighted that the resort has a "standard" white-sand beach and, at the other side [illegible] (In [illegible] ot[illegible] le[illegible] he [illegible] nd (a well [illegible] the [illegible] and starfish of various [illegible]) below. The water is shallow and deepens very gradually.

Onshore, there is no one to ogle you, and you can wear that bikini you've never had the courage (or the figure) to wear. It's entirely possible to lie on the sand or on a chaise as Brazilian samba music, a favorite of the Martinez couple, plays in the background from the dining hall. You'll likely fall asleep, so make sure you're lying under a shade.

You can take a short hike up and down the hill within the resort property and be rewarded with the refreshing sight of the cove, its pristine blue-green water inviting you to wade in and [coo]l off from the hot trek. Instead [of] sand, the cove has large stones, [so] you're better off wearing jelly shoes. The water here is calm all [illegible]. It's a good place to sit, meditate and read (or write) a good novel. Imagine it—just you, your [illegible] and the tranquil water.

You can explore Alcantara and [n]eighboring towns by sea. [illegible] [ri]de on Hagibis, a small [pu]mp boat, and see the solar-powered lighthouse on the island of Calatong.

Try mingling with the local folk and attend one of the local festivities that seem to take place every weekend in the summer. The Martinezes took my two companions and me to the town plaza to watch the Miss Alcantara beauty contest. We were pleasantly sur[pr]ised to find that some contestants were quite vocal (and intelligent).

One contestant [illegible] you were in the President's shoe[s] would you still run even though you had previously declared that you would not?"

The contestant's unforgettable reply (in Filipino): "No, because I would be breaking my [illegible]

JULIUS in his element

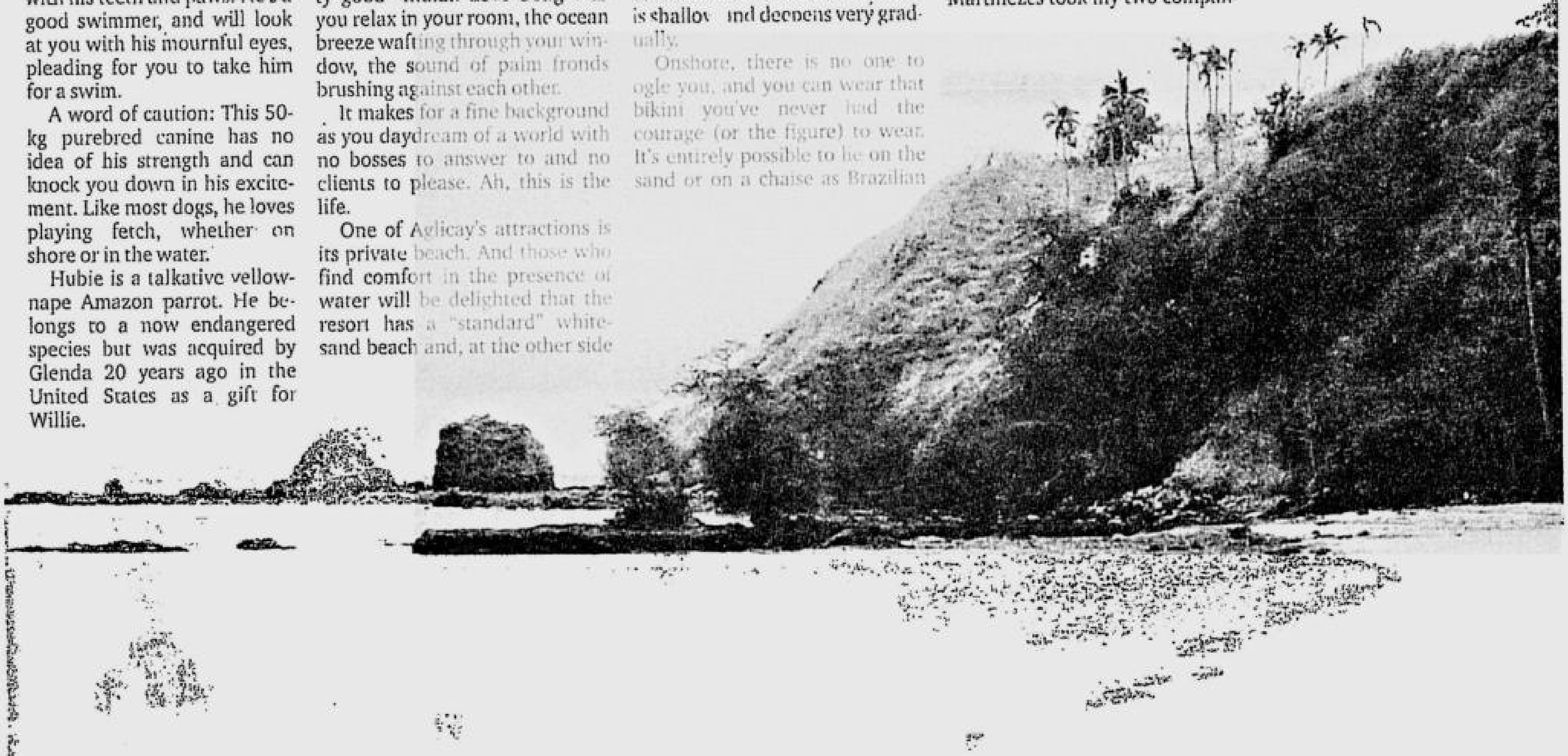
[illegible] [F]ortunately [illegible] Th[illegible] [illegible] Martinezes [illegible] [per]sonal tou[ch] [illegible] Aglicay [illegible] They eat [illegible] food [illegible] entertain [illegible] all [illegible] You [illegible] expe[illegible] talk [illegible] [tr]aving [illegible] states for [illegible] wor[l]d [illegible] 36 [illegible] But [illegible] [s]tori[es] [illegible] prov[illegible] you'[illegible] with [illegible] life [illegible] the [illegible] Bo[racay] [illegible] pump [illegible] ill the [illegible] of [illegible] tourist[s] [illegible] and [illegible]

If yo[u] [illegible] Ma[illegible] to prepare [illegible] dishes [illegible] turn [illegible] my [illegible]

If [illegible] them, [illegible] Ma[illegible] may even teach [illegible] the [illegible] steps of the tango [illegible] ballroom dances. (Willie [illegible] took up dance [illegible] some [illegible] M[illegible] ray St[illegible]

Wh[illegible] to [illegible] Agli[cay] [illegible] feel [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] gre[illegible] and nights are no[illegible] [eno]ugh for you to enjoy ev[illegible] the [illegible] can offer.

Bu[t] [illegible] so [illegible] refreshed ready [to] take on the [illegible] ness of city [li]ving. And then you find yourself planning for your next trip to Agl[icay] [illegible] and [illegible] did [illegible]



A VERY private place

Mother of all guides

By Constantino C. Tejero

HANDSOME [illegible] [mon]thly guide for Metro Manila, in full color and on matte coated paper, is now available for free to the befuddled visitor.

This is something of vital importance that old fogeys and blabbering bureaucrats should have done earlier. Yet it took two young entrepre[neurs] to get it going.

"The guide was conceived [and] produced by brothers Raymond, 31, and Michael Alimurung, 29, after a vacation in Hawaii over [a] year ago. There they foun[d] [an] abundance of free guides [avail]able all over the place.

The brothers realized [that] such a guide was [a] basic [neces]sity for the Philippines to establish itself as a premier destination." Four months after that trip, they got a partnership with the Department of Tourism.

"We have more magazines in this country than we really need," says Ray. "But there['s] no such guide, even in Metro Ma[nila] [illegible] na[illegible] he[illegible] [L]icente [illegible] of som[e] 40 [illegible] pape[r] [illegible] pape[r] [b]ut it [illegible] The[illegible] here [illegible] but it only nac[illegible] [illegible] guide [illegible] [illegible] Ray [illegible] expert [illegible] Web [illegible] Onli[ne] Philippines. And [illegible] Mi[ke] [illegible] management [illegible] [engi]neering [illegible] the Ateneo de Manila [illegible] he founded, developed [illegible] [est]ablished the car [illegible] [illegible] Athletic[s]

User-friendly

When the brothers approached then Tourism [Secr]etary Richard Gordon, he [illegible] [ca]lled risk-tak[ing] but he wanted things done not in a half-baked way. And so the brothers were committed to deli[ver] with Ray acting as managing editor and Mike as production manager [illegible] ime [illegible] [illegible] good [illegible] th[illegible] [illegible] in 12 [illegible] Int[illegible] now [illegible] coffe[e] [illegible] place[s] [illegible] International Air[port] [illegible] and the tourism [illegible]

"Distribution is [illegible] many coffee shops that have many [illegible] Ray. "People there have the [illegible] of reader[s] while drinking coffee [illegible] and [res]taurants where the lighting is dim, and people go there to eat or drink and not to read."

The guide is visually pleasing and easy to read. It uses the fonts Humanist (for the heads) and Arial (body text), and even stamp-size images come out high-resolution.

It's quite compact. In the section Activities & Adventure, for instance, packed in two pages are 24 activities with an average one paragraph each, excluding the accompanying photos and ads. "Everything's there, not just badminton," says Ray.

It's also handy, using the similar format and size of guides abroad, which the brothers studied before proceeding with the project.

"Guides from all over the world, [we] have them here in the house," says Ray. "Tourists don't like carrying big guides. Women especially, they like something that they can just stick in their bag."

Comprehensive

The contents are [illegible] comprehensive, too. Unlike other guides that cover only bars, restaurants and shopping areas, or contain only maps, this one includes:

Accommodations (hotels, motels, pension inns); Activities & Adventure (sports, outdoor activities, arts and crafts); Attractions (family fun, zoos, parks); Calendar (festivals and events); City Sights (areas and sights); Dining (restaurants by cuisine); Museums (and memorials); Nightlife & Entertainment (bars, cinemas, live sporting events, karaoke TV);

Tours & Travel (sightseeing and adventure tours, travel agencies); Services/Business (couriers, language schools, medical salons, network marketing, spas, tailoring); Shopping (malls and shopping centers, shopping by category); Transportation (airlines, bus terminals, shipping lines), and Visitor Information (consulates, emergency assistance, visitor information).

These are supplemented [by] [st]reet and area maps and featur[e ar]ticles. And unlike most guides, which are published annually, this one [illegible] [c]ome [m]onthly.

The [wr]iting [is] straightforward and [illegible] with [i]nform[ation] [illegible] Type graph[ic]al er[rors] [illegible] minimal and even the [illegible] cal mark[illegible] proper [illegible] served.

Wh[illegible] surp[rising] was to [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] fun [illegible] "Par[illegible] Li[illegible] [illegible] bo[o]ks [illegible] said [illegible] even [illegible] own up [illegible] of the same [illegible] our leading [illegible] pers.

But what [illegible] [illegible] us ma[illegible] this m[illegible] be [illegible] Metro Manila guide we'd [illegible] was when [illegible] tural calendar [illegible] Jea[n] Cocte[au] [illegible] Tes[illegible] d'O[r]phé" [illegible] [Fran]çaise Al[liance] [illegible] Ma[illegible] In a tig[illegible] to q[illegible] Co[illegible] [illegible] Any [illegible] effo[rt] [illegible] rit[illegible]

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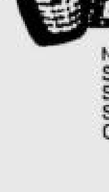
Only P1,000 minimum purchase required! To join, simply call 689-1000, 914-1100, and 1-800-107-250-000 (for provincial calls toll-free). You will be guided to key in your 16-digit MasterCard card number, transaction amount, transaction date, and transaction time. Or you can email these required information to mastercard@1isa.com.

Hurry! P4 million in total prizes await you! Promo runs from April 11 to August 15, 2004 so use your MasterCard card now and prepare to experience one incredible, priceless upgrade.

1st Monthly Draw
Leisure Upgrade
Draw Date: May 31, 2004

Sony Mini DV Camcorder (2 winners)
Sony Playstation 2 with 53 34cm Sony WEGA TV (4 winners)
Sony Mini Hi-Fi (6 winners)
Sony DVD Home Theater System(5 winners)
Sony MD Walkman with AM/FM tuner(5 winners)



2nd Monthly Draw
Gadgets Upgrade
Draw Date: June 30, 2004

Nokia 6600 (8 winners)
Sony Ericsson P900 (2 winners)
Sony Ericsson T630 (8 winners)
Sony DSC-T1 5.0 megapixel digital camera (2 winners)
Compaq Presario 2585 notebook computer (2 winners)

3rd Monthly Draw
Lifestyle Upgrade
Draw Date: July 30, 2004

P35,000 Gift Certificate for Gold's Gym (4 winners)
P30,000 Power Plant Mall at Rockwell and The Podium shopping cash credits (6 winners)
P25,000 Nike Stadium and Planet Sports shopping cash credits (4 winners)
P30,000 Time Depot and G-Factory shopping cash credits (4 winners)
P30,000 Gift Certificate to The Spa (4 winners)

Grand Draw
Draw Date: August 30, 2004

Grand Prize: P 1 million

High-Life Prizes

Sony 109.22cm Real Projection TV(2 winners)
Top-of-the-line Compaq Presario 2517 notebook computer
P100,000 shopping spree cash credits in Greenbelt 3 and 4, Power P
Mall at Rockwell and The Podium (4 winners)
Sony 86.36 cm Wega TV with home theater system 2 w

See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No 1730 series of 2004

Rosary campaign against abortion

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

TODAY is Easter Sunday. Christ rose from the dead on the third day so that we may have life. The Rosary for Life campaign in the Philippines against abortion gives meaning to the Resurrection of Jesus, pledging one hour a day to the praying of the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary for an unborn child. Two thousand people from different parishes have pledged to do this.

Launched in the Philippines last year, the Rosary for Life Foundation is supported by husband and wife Sebastian and Betty Roxas Chua. Founder Winifred Powers, who began the movement in Brooklyn, New York, attended the Holy Mass celebration by Archbishop Panciano Aniceto.

Power of the Rosary

When John Paul II became Pope, he wanted to visit his country, Poland, but the Polish government would not let him. The Polish people prayed the Rosary for one hour a week (sometimes one hour a day) asking Mary to intercede. On the seventh day of prayer, the government, without explanation, allowed the Pope to visit.

If you are willing to sacrifice 60 minutes a week, join your brothers and sisters in Christ and pray the Rosary for an end to abortion.

The recommended format is in the brochures. You are also encouraged to spend the hour in Church, praying before the Blessed Sacrament. However, many churches are not open round the clock.

The prayers may be said at home or wherever you are. You are just asked to take one hour each week (hopefully each day) and pray in union with the rest of the parish/diocese/nation for an end to abortion.

Anyone can be a member of any parish or Catholic organization. Hopefully, each parish will have its own group of round-the-clock prayers of the Rosary. It is suggested that each group have a group leader/coordinator and operate within the parish guidelines of One Hour To God.

Today the Rosary for Life movement will be in the Risen Christ Parish in Smokey Mountain distributing form pledges. Parishes that wish to be visited can text Cherrie at 0917-852-0668, fax 4003447 or write to Rosary for Life Philippines at 996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Manila.

Canonization

BLESSED Pedro Hannibal, founder of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus and the Daughters of the Divine Zeal, will be canonized on May 16 in Rome after the testimony of a major miracle involving the miraculous healing of a Filipino child from Iloilo in 1993.

Charisse Nicole Diaz was born full-term at the St. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo on Jan. 28, 1993. She suffered a severe type of meningitis causing high fever and seizures. Doctors tried to cure her, although there was still a risk she would end up mentally retarded.

BLESSED Pedro Hannibal and Charisse Nicole Diaz

The mother of Charise's father, Patria, gave her son a medal of Blessed Hannibal with a relic and a novena. The family prayed very hard for the child's welfare. Dr. Zerah Resa Diaz, the child's mother, said afterward, the child improved. Charisse is now a healthy 11-year-old.

Devotees of Blessed Hannibal wanting to join the trip to Rome can text Fr. Jun Ranera at 0919-5526043.

Images of Blessed Hannibal are available at the Angelissimo store, 2/L, Robinson's Galleria.

Our Lady of All Nations

A MARIAN pilgrimage is being organized by the World's Wonders in time for the Seventh International Prayer Rally of Our Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam on May 30. The trip includes visits to Burgos, Lourdes, Liseux, Paris, Paray le Monial, La Salette and Fatima, Portugal. Call Sally Maddatu at 7266162 or 7266147, or text Susan at 0918-9280332. Bishop Jesus Varela was invited to be the chaplain of the group.

Feast day of St. Expeditus

THE FEAST day of St. Expeditus is on April 19. A triduum of Masses will be celebrated at 6 p.m., April 16-18 at St. Andrew's Cathedral, La Huerta, Parañaque. Heading the celebration is the Society of St. Expeditus, which is propagating the devotion. A six-foot image of the saint has been enthroned recently at the cathedral. Fiesta Masses are at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

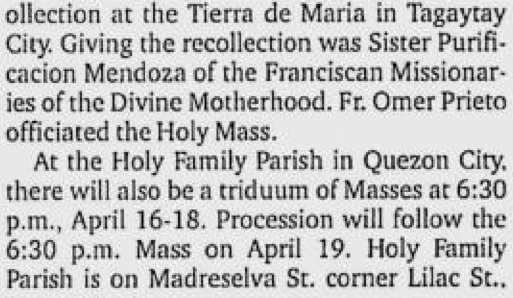
The group also recently held a one day recollection at the Tierra de Maria in Tagaytay City. Giving the recollection was Sister Purificacion Mendoza of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood. Fr. Omer Prieto officiated the Holy Mass.

At the Holy Family Parish in Quezon City, there will also be a triduum of Masses at 6:30 p.m., April 16-18. Procession will follow the 6:30 p.m. Mass on April 19. Holy Family Parish is on Madreselva St. corner Lilac St., Roxas District.

Concert for St. Joseph

THE PEOPLE of Pampanga are excited over the forthcoming dinner concert in front of the San Guillermo Parish in Bacolor to raise funds for the construction of the St. Joseph Church in Cabalantian, Bacolor. Text Dr. Salve Olalia at 0918-9056108.

"Artista Rita," under the direction of Andy Alviz, will be featured. A new church is needed after lahar covered the barrio of Cabalantian in October 1991.



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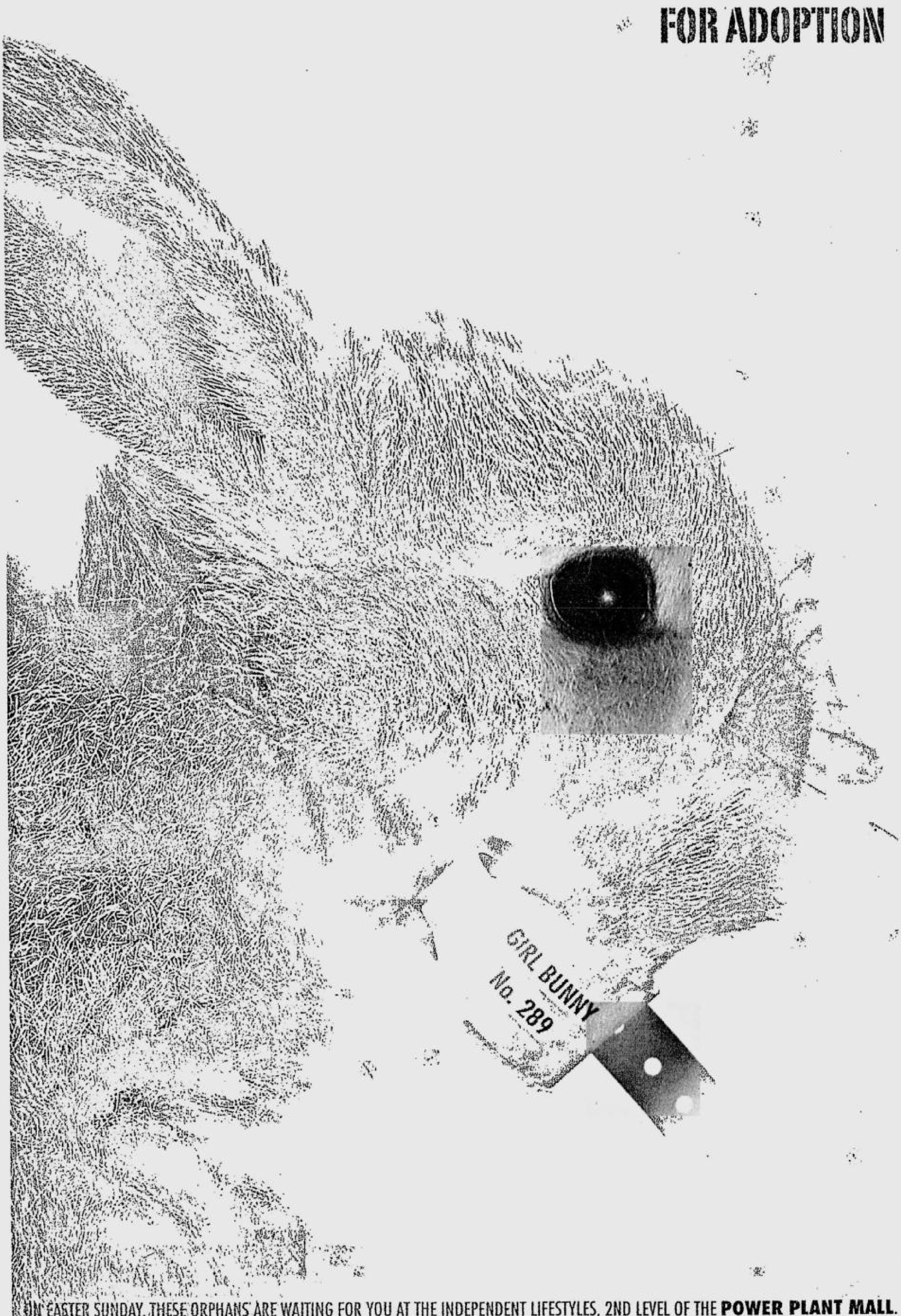

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Sunday LifeStyle

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Blush-on bride

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

GIGI Chua (makeup by Leo Posadas, hair by Maricel Villaflor, Essensuals Toni & Guy)

PEPPER Lopez (makeup by Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, hair by Tintin Lopez of Emphasis)

JENNIFER Dayrit (makeup by Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, hair by Tintin Lopez of Emphasis)

JENNIFER Ang (makeup by Peddy Acebo, hair by Bong Vicente Co of Propaganda)

BAMBAM Tuble (makeup by Abbygale Arenas-de Leon of Emphasis)

MARIX Guerzon (hair and makeup by Paul Cuevas of Franck Provost)

LIZA Beltran (hair and makeup by Paul Cuevas of Franck Provost)

"JOHNSON & Johnson look."

This is how hair and makeup artist Rachelle Aguila of H Salon describes how she likes her client to look on her wedding day.

"Her makeup must be muted, almost bare. Very virginal," she adds.

"Definitely fresh and natural," echoes Leo Posadas of Essensuals Toni & Guy.

Beauty queen and up-and-coming makeup artist Abbygale Arenas-de Leon agrees. "The bride should be glowing, so you enhance her best features," she says.

Aguila, Posadas and Arenas-de Leon are three of the bridal makeup professionals who participated in the recent "Perfect 10 Bride" hair-and-makeup sittings at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. The event was co-presented with the hotel by Metro Weddings I Do, as part of the "Precious Moments Year 7" bridal exhibit.

"Perfect 10 Bride" gathered some of the metro's top salons such as Propaganda, Franck Provost, Ménage/Manila, Emphasis, H Salon, Essensuals Toni & Guy, Salon de Orient, Piandré, Bambbi Fuentes and Fanny Serrano to give free consultations and trial makeup to upcoming brides.

Trial session

"I want my bride to be comfortable with me and her makeup," says Peddy Acebo of Propaganda, "so a trial session is pretty important."

He says brides-to-be who can afford the expense go around town "shopping" for the right makeup artist "and that's all right. You must work with someone you can trust."

A makeup artist's professional experience must be a major consideration, says Acebo. An old-timer in the business and favored by local glossies for pictorials, the mild-mannered Acebo brought clippings of his works and showed them to guests at the Mandarin sittings.

Pick someone who's kind and considerate, says Aguila, "*hindi yung tinatarayan ka*. After all, you're paying them. You must get what you want. A good professional relationship between makeup artist and client is very important."

New York-trained Arenas-de Leon, who's affiliated with Emphasis, understands that most brides are not used to wearing makeup, so she makes sure to discuss with her client the bridal makeup process. It's essential to get to know the personality of your client, she says, so you'll know what she's comfortable with.

"Most Filipinas are still very reserved and conservative when it comes to hair and makeup," say Posadas. If she's makeup-shy, you don't want her to feel uneasy with herself on her wedding day, thus the clean, natural look. "What I do is compliment her a lot to boost her morale."

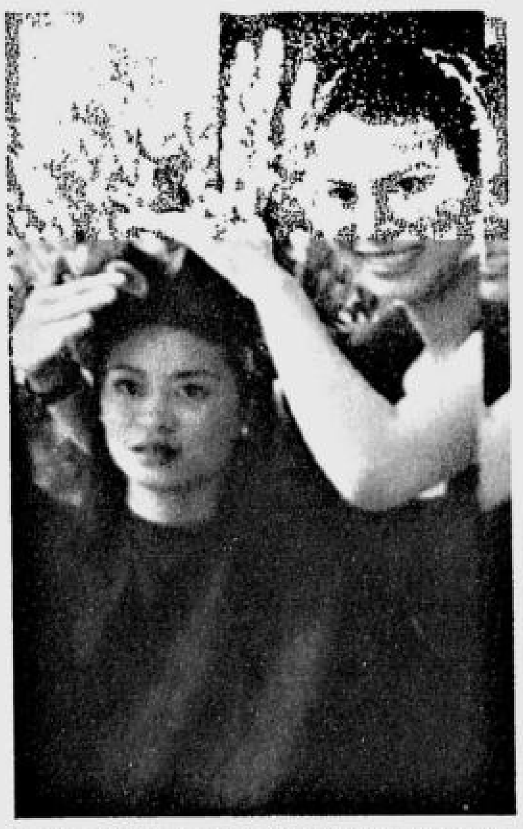
Lifetime investment

The average standard rate for bridal makeup is P15,000 for three persons, including the bride, her mother and a bridesmaid. It's no mean amount, but if you've already spent close to six figures for the gown alone, Aguila says the makeup cost is minimal considering "your photo album is a lifetime investment. That's how you will look [for the next generations to see]."

If a bride insists on a more affordable makeup artist, Aguila says, she must be sure she'll get quality service just the same. "It's all right if you want to go to a [neighborhood salon] as long as you are sure of the quality of their work. You should try it first."

Unlike most artists, Aguila makes it a point

BLUSH-ON/L2



BEAUTY queen and makeup artist Abbygale Arenas-de Leon is in her element as she works on bride-to-be Pepper Lopez.

Rustan's
Rush into the sun.

Bask in the summer sun with XOXO, Roberta Chiarella, Soul Edge, Oleg Cassini and Jam.

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HAIRSTYLIST Bong Vicente Co of Propaganda works on Jennifer Dayrit as makeup artist Peddy Acebo does wonders on Jennifer Ang's face.

TINTIN Lopez of Emphasis creates the illusion of upswept 'do on pixie-haired Bambam Tuble.

Blush-on bride

A hair-and-makeup fair by Metro Weddings I Do shows that the right makeup artist is critical to a good wedding

THE TRICK is to pull back the hair downward so as not to emphasize a rounded face, says hairstylist Bong Vicente Co of Propaganda, here working on Jennifer Dayrit.

From page L1

to do first the makeup of the bride before her entourage. She says this makes the bride secure that the makeup artist is "not yet *pagod*. I just retouch her makeup when I'm done with the rest."

Arenas-de Leon is relatively new in the business so she gives "freebie" makeups. "If they ask me to do the face of the groom, okay *lang*. Sometimes it's the flower girl..."

Professional advice

But no amount of makeup expertise, say the artists, can substitute for good skincare habits long before the wedding day. Having the right foundation to prime the bride's face is only part of the final look.

Facial treatments must be done no later than two weeks before the wedding, the artists advise, to give time for the redness and peeling to subside. Ditto for dental procedures.

"If you go for a foot spa or manicure," says Arenas-de Leon, "get it two to three days before the wedding so if you get a cut or something, it will have time to heal. [Eyebrow] threading must also be two to three days prior.

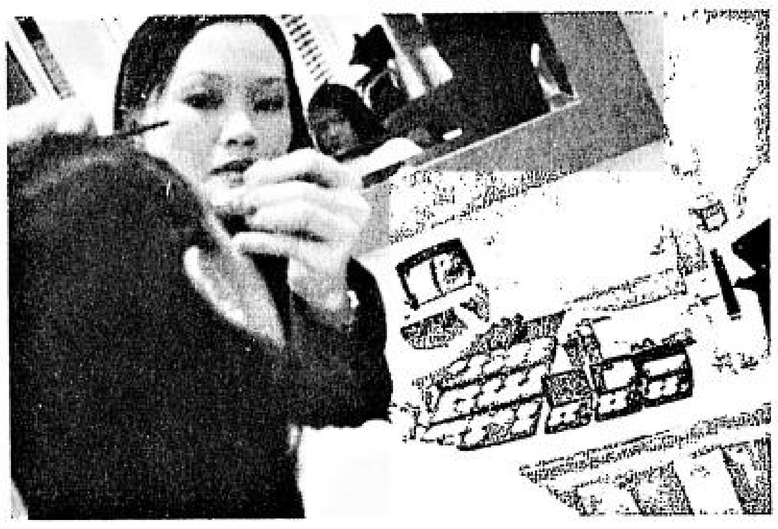
"If you're planning to color your hair, do it two weeks ahead so you'll have time to have it redone if you don't like the result."

She adds, "I teach her how to retouch her face. I tell her to bring powder and gloss."

Posadas says adequate sleep is needed to maintain suppleness of skin and avoid eye puffiness. Steer clear of water-retaining and eye bags-causing salty food, advises Acebo.

"On her wedding day, the bride mustn't worry about anything," says Arenas-de Leon. "All she needs to think about is to look beautiful. And that's how she should be—beautiful."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



MAKEUP artist Lea Pilongo of Fanny Serrano salon works on a would-be bride.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY MEL CORTEZ

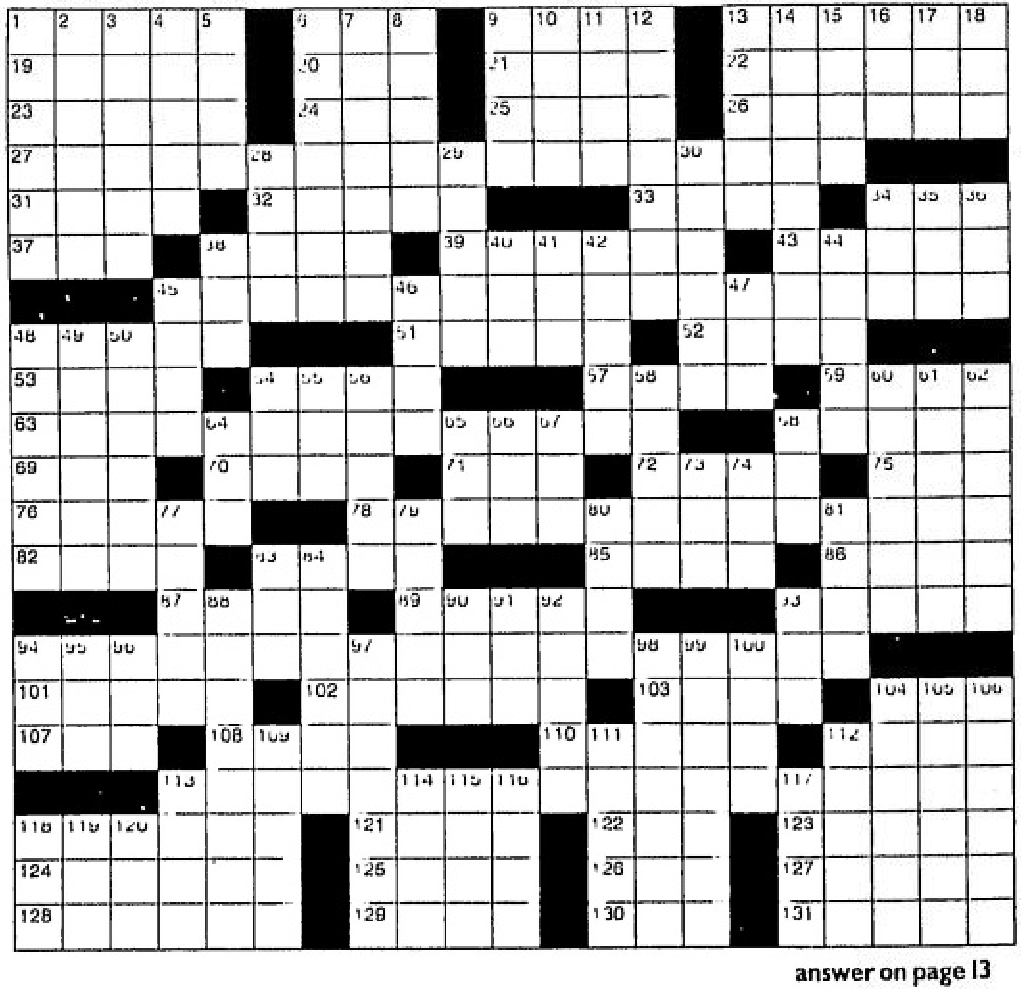
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

BREW HA HA

ACROSS
1 Very valuable violin
6 Letters associated with a phone's "6"
9 River to the Baltic Sea
13 Went up
19 Seemingly
20 Suffix with fact
21 Man of the hour
22 Kind and merciful
23 Military groups
24 Sgt., e.g.
25 Toe part
26 Gotten up
27 Start of a diner patron's request
31 Address for Remus' Rabbit
32 Cave-dwelling dwarf
33 — bene
34 Croupier's concern
37 Dejected
38 Salt, symbolically
39 Actress Plummer
43 Alpaca's cousin
45 End of request
48 Clinton cabinet member Les
51 Averse
52 Big Apple river
53 It has a dark side
54 Life of Riley
57 Disencumbers
59 France, formerly
63 Start of the waiter's response
68 Vital artery
69 Ping-Pong partition
70 Two-color cookie
71 Dinghy thingy
72 Big rig
75 Speeder stopper
76 Hunter on high
78 Part 2 of response
82 Queue after Q
83 Mil. rank
85 Low in fat
86 Actress Falco
87 Commercial on the tube
89 Shooting marble
93 Fear greatly
94 Part 3 of response
101 — point (only so far)
102 In position for a legal play
103 Evils
104 Always, in verse
107 Iacocca of the auto industry
108 Tube
110 "Uncle —" (Anton Chekhov play)
112 Wheel pin
113 End of response
118 Deli dangler
121 DLI doubled
122 Rummy variety
123 Place for a chaise
124 Vinegary
125 Required suturing
126 Crumb carrier
127 "Me, Myself & —" (Jim Carrey comedy)
128 Biological categories
129 Agra attire
130 Psyche part
131 Makeshift swings

DOWN
1 Brief news stories used as fillers
2 Siberian plain
3 Berated, with "at"
4 Up and about
5 Frisbee, e.g.
6 Crowned head
7 Paganini or Machiavelli
8 Lefty of baseball
9 "Say it isn't so!"
10 Refusing to listen
11 Rocker Clapton
12 Talk show host Watts
13 Mine passage
14 Panaceas
15 Parisian gal pal
16 — Cruces
17 L.A.-to-N.Y.C. dir.
18 Feral shelter
28 "L'—, c'est moi": Louis XIV
29 Pupil of Socrates
30 Spurned
34 Goat quote
35 Abbr. on an ambulance
36 — kwon do
38 Diarist Anais
40 Elton John's record label
41 Skill
42 Associate of Gandhi
44 Release
45 Skid row denizen
46 Peter Fonda title role
47 Dads
48 Key with no sharps or flats
49 Actress Suzanne
50 Big name in sticky notes
54 Slip up
55 Pro vote
56 Pass out
58 Reply to "Who's there?"
60 Skee-Ball site
61 Perfect place
62 Backslid
64 Film director Howard
65 Big bird of myth
66 Musical knack
67 Lode load
68 Football filler
73 Trash-tracking org.
74 Guys
77 Surpass
79 Chews out
80 Evelyn Waugh's brother
81 Epitaph opener
83 Moo goo — pan
84 Former New York City mayor
88 Novelist Nabokov
90 "There but for the grace of God —"
91 IRS investigation
92 Rome's — Fountain
93 — Plaines
94 Actor Brynner
95 Unlock, in verse
96 Rugged truck, briefly
97 Buries
98 Imitating a pig
99 Reach by plane
100 Custardy dessert
104 Devonshire cathedral city
105 "Seinfeld" role
106 Overhauls
109 City on the Mohawk
111 Pond buildup
112 Pong producer
113 Cross a creek
114 Pac-10 team
115 Level
116 Skirt type
117 Barbecuing bar
118 Cave in
119 Hole-in-one
120 Architect Maya



answer on page 13

PUERTO Princesa beauties. MPPC 2004 Mildred Hamid (center) and her court (from left): Aiza Tabing, Beverly Samson, Carmela Dominique Ahorro and Isabelita Dumdum

Miss Puerto Princesa crowned

MILDRED Hamid was crowned Miss Puerto Princesa City 2004 during the recent celebration of the 132nd foundation day of Palawan's capital.

Runners-up were Carmela Dominique Ahorro, Beverly Samson, Isabelita Dumdum and Aiza Tabing.

This year's search was headed by Ellen Hagedorn, wife of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

The pageant, held at the new 10,000-seater Puerto Princesa Coliseum, was directed by Dino Veloso and hosted by singer RJ Rosales. For the event's highlight, the long gown competition, contestants wore evening gowns by Eddie Baddeo, who also headed the board of judges.

Other members of the board were Street Jeans chief executive officer Sunny Ty and his wife Judith, Alfred Sy of the city mayor's office, Woman's Home Companion magazine editor Noelle Boado, and ABS-CBN's Angeline Aguilar.

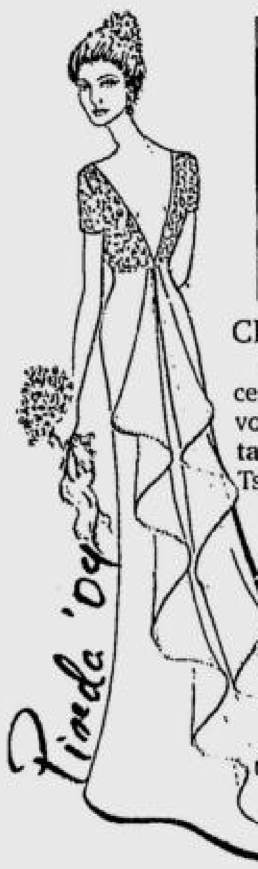
Guest performers included GMA 7's Sherwin Ordoñez, ABS-CBN's Star in a Million first runner-up Sheryn Regis, and acoustic player Paolo Santos.

PUERTO Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn (second from right) with Judith Ty, Ellen Hagedorn and ABS-CBN talent Angeline Aguilar

PALAWAN Rep. Abraham Mitra

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



CHIO-TAN

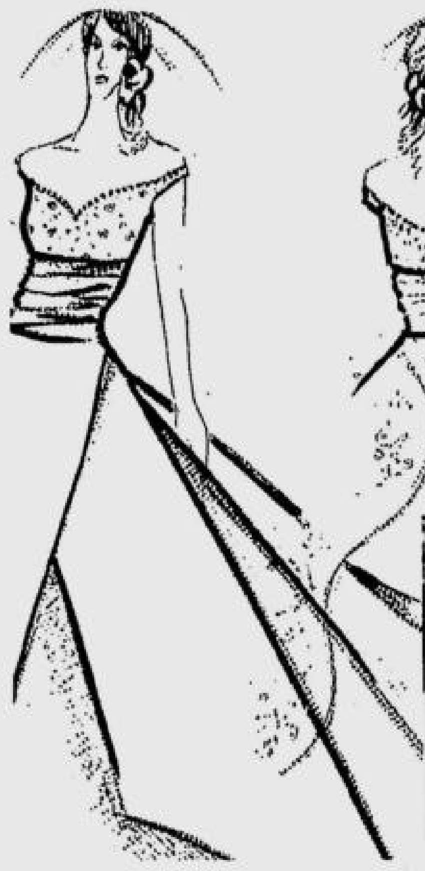
Andrea Tan, daughter of **Eduardo** (deceased) and **Rosario Tan**, exchanged wedding vows with **Ari Chio**, son of **Augusto** and **Teresita Chio**, on March 27 at the Rosary Church, Tsim Shau Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using layers of ivory and blush pink silk chiffon. The empire-cut bodice was traced with pink and silver caviar beads, seed pearls and rhinestones in a rose pattern. The ruched sleeves were scattered with floral-shaped Swarovski crystals.

Reception followed at the Shang Palace, Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel, Hong Kong.

SOLANO-ADUPE

Dino Rommel L. Solano, son of **Noly** and **Divinagracia Solano**, will tie the knot with **Richie Rouselle F. Adupe**, daughter of **Pablito** (deceased) and **Aida Adupe**, on April 24 at the National City United Church, QC. Reception will follow at the Aberdeen Court, Great Eastern Hotel, QC. Rev. **Isagani Deslate** will be the officiating minister.



NOMA-RELAYSON

Edward Noma, son of **Iglesio** and **Flordeliza Noma**, tied the knot with **Liezel Relayson**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Ligaya Relayson**, on Feb. 1 at the Coconut Palace, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations designed her and the entourage's gowns.

LUCILA DEBUT

Czarina Dominique Lucila, daughter of **Lina Lucila**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 7 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations designed her gown.

NAVASERO DEBUT

Arlean Lopez Navasero, daughter of **Arthur** and **Lea Navasero** of Catalina Village, Lipa City, celebrated her 18th birthday on April 4 at Luntian Resort and Restaurant, Lipa City. She is a first year BS Psychology student of De La Salle, Lipa.

Honeymoon in slice of paradise

MOUNTAIN Woods Resort Hotel in Subic is a virtual slice of paradise that opened recently to tourists, vacationers and honeymooners.

Perched on top of a cliff, the resort is a secluded spot, affording its customers much-needed privacy and commanding view over the lush forests of Subic.

There are 28 spacious rooms complete with amenities such as cable TV, telephone, refrigerator with a mini bar and a toilet and bath with hot and cold shower. The resort also has function rooms that can accommodate various social banquets, wedding receptions or business meetings.

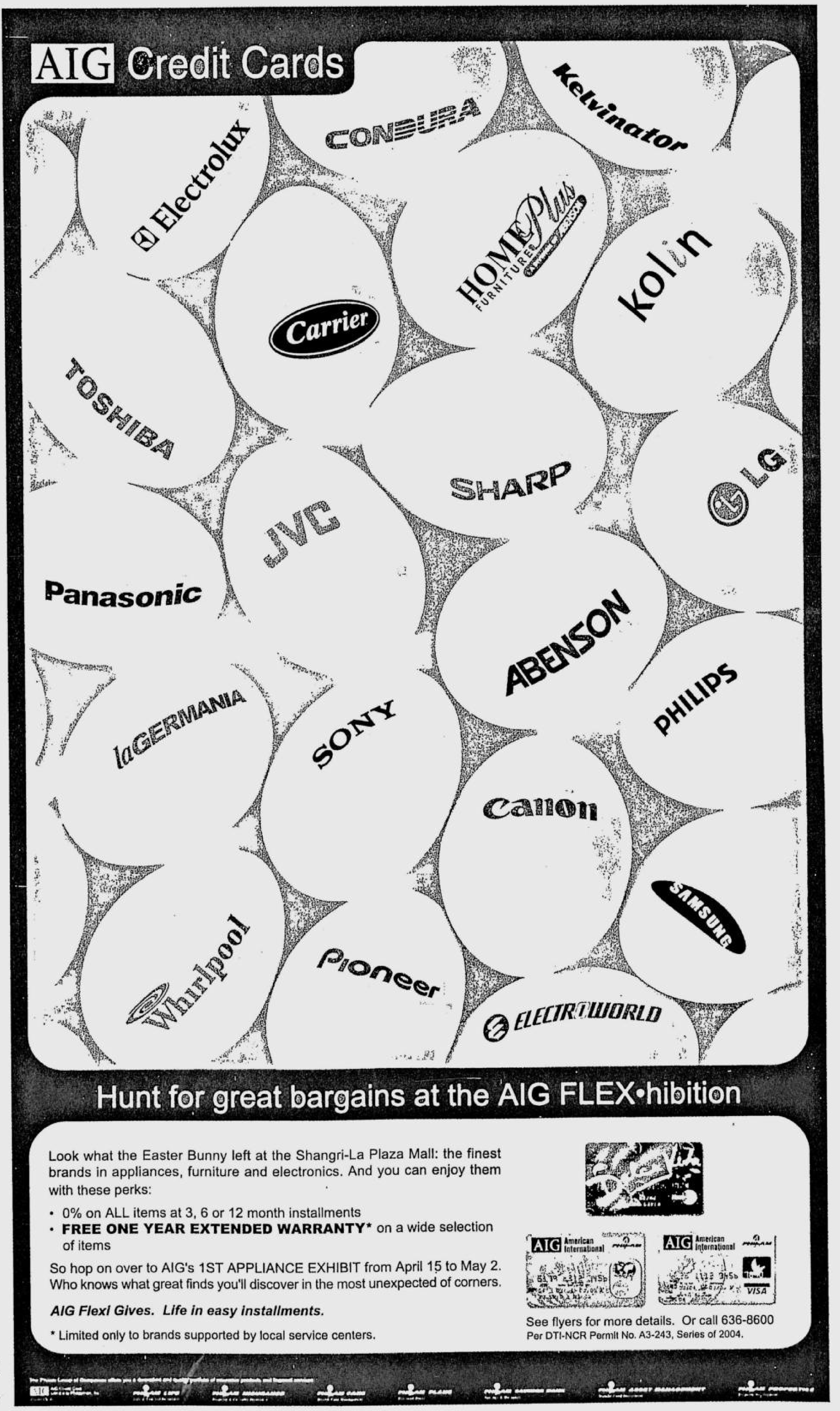
The pool bar invites guests to swim all day and relax against a backdrop of mountains and forests.

Come dinnertime, guests may sample the exquisite cuisine of Le Jardin, an open-air restaurant that overlooks a garden.

Mountain Woods Resort Hotel, a sister company of White Rock Beach Resort in Subic Bay, Zambales, is located on Entemador Street, West Kalayaan, inside SBMA. It is currently managed by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp., the same company that manages Astor Hotel on Makati Avenue, Astoria Plaza in Pasig, The Atrium in Pasay, The Pearl Manila in Manila, Robbinsdale Hotel in Quezon City, Cresta del Mar in La Union and Puerto del Sol in Pangasinan, among others.

Call 4212781 to 82 and 4212784 or 86.

AL FRESCO dining at Mountain Woods Resort Hotel, with a commanding view of the lush forests of Subic



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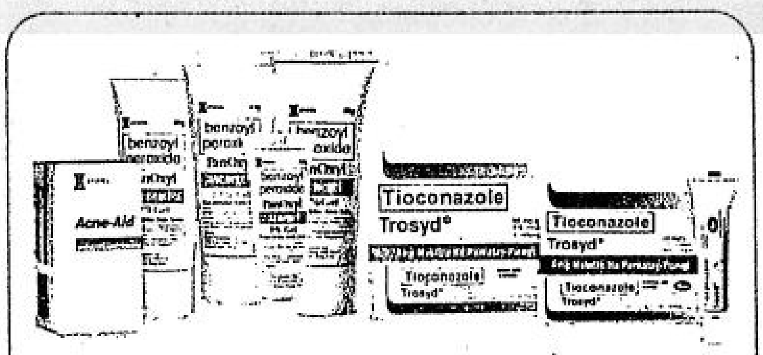

FOR SKIN DISEASES/ INFECTIONS

	BEFORE	NOW
ACNE AID BAR 50 G	84.75	**80.50**
ACNE AID BAR 100 G	116.00	**110.20**
DUOFILM LIQUID 15 ML	282.50	**268.30**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 25% X 40 G	268.50	**255.10**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 2.5% X 10 G	128.75	**122.35**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 5% X 40 G	281.00	**266.95**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 10% X 40 G	293.25	**278.60**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 5% X 10 G	128.25	**121.85**
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 10% X 10 G	143.25	**136.10**
PANOXYL BAR 100 G	213.75	**203.10**
OILATUM BAR 100 G	116.00	**110.20**
SASTID BAR 100 G	116.00	**110.20**
SASTID BAR 50 G	84.75	**80.50**
TROSYD CREAM 5 G	114.50	**107.50**
TROSYD CREAM 15 G	203.95	**190.00**
TROSYD CREAM 3.5 G	76.00	**71.00**
NIZORAL CREAM 3.5 G	106.25	**100.00**
NIZORAL CREAM 5 G	132.50	**125.00**

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

ANTIBIOTICS

	BEFORE	NOW
CEFACLOR MONOHYDRATE		
XELENT 250 MG	40.75	**38.75**
XELENT 500 MG X 30	75.00	**71.25**
AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE		
SUMOXIL SUSP 125 MG X 30 ML	52.00	**49.40**
SUMOXIL SUSP 125 MG X 60 ML	87.25	**82.90**
SUMOXIL SUSP 250 MG X 30 ML	76.75	**72.95**
SUMOXIL SUSP 250 MG X 60 ML	125.75	**119.50**
SUMOXIL SUSP 125 MG X 105 ML	95.00	**90.25**
SUMOXIL SUSP 250 MG X 105 ML	140.00	**133.00**
SUMAPEN SUSP 125 MG X 60 ML	75.45	**71.70**
SUMAPEN SUSP 250 MG X 60 ML	104.00	**98.80**
ERYTHROMYCIN ETHYLSUCCINATE		
ERYTHROCIN PED. GTT 30 ML	184.75	**176.00**
ERYTHROCIN DS GRN 400 / 50 ML	316.75	**302.00**
ERYTHROCIN 200 / 60 ML	219.75	**210.00**
ERYTHROMYCIN STEARATE		
ERYTHROCIN 250 MG X 100	20.10	**19.10**
ERYTHROCIN 500 MG X 100	34.25	**32.50**

FOR ALLERGY

LORATIDINE		
LORATYNE 10 MG	26.50	**24.00**

FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

FELODIPINE		
FELOP ER 5 MG X 100	28.00	**25.20**
FELOP ER 10 MG X 100	44.00	**40.00**

FOR HAIR CARE

MINOXIDIL		
REGROE 5% X 60 ML	1,043.75	**969.00**
REGROE 5% X 120 ML	1,834.25	**1,669.00**
REGROE 5% X 120 ML MSF	2,018.00	**1,869.00**
REGROE 3% X 60 ML	741.75	**669.00**
REGROE 5% X 30 ML	558.90	**490.00**
REGROE 5% X 30 ML MSF	614.75	**546.00**
REGROE 5% X 60 ML MSF	1,144.75	**1080.00**
MINOXIDIL ISAC 5% X 50 ML	534.75	**465.00**
MINOXIDIL ISAC 5% X 60 ML (FOR WOMAN)	559.75	**490.00**

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GUAIFENESIN + SALBUTAMOL		
ASMALIN BRONCHO TAB	6.25	**5.95**
ASMALIN TAB	2.70	**2.60**

FOR DIABETES

ACARBOSE		
GLUCONASE 50 MG	10.25	**9.75**

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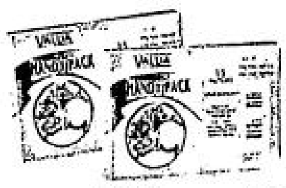
	BEFORE	NOW
ENERVON X 30	145.50	**138.25**
ENERVON X 100	4.85	**4.65**
ENERVON 33 400 G	117.75	**111.90**
ENERVON 331 KG	278.00	**264.10**
CEELIN 500 ML	312.75	**297.15**
CEELIN 250 ML	172.50	**163.90**
CEELIN 120 ML	108.75	**103.35**
CEELIN DROPS 15 ML	61.40	**58.35**
CEELIN DROPS 30 ML	86.85	**82.55**
UHP ASCORBIC ACID 500 MG	1.15	**1.10**
REVICON TAB X 30	106.50	**101.20**
TIKI TIKI DROPS 15 ML	32.50	**30.90**
TIKI TIKI DROPS 30 ML	49.00	**46.55**
TIKI TIKI STAR SYRUP 120 ML	79.50	**75.55**
FORTIFER FA	8.20	**7.80**
POTEN-CEE 20'S	60.00	**57.00**
POTEN-CEE 100'S	3.00	**2.85**
CALTRATE PLUS X 30	183.00	**176.10**
CENTRUM TAB X 12	102.00	**95.10**
STRESS TAB WITH IRON 600 MG	97.80	**90.90**
CLUSIVOL CAP X 12	76.20	**69.30**
CECON CHEW TAB 500 X 100	4.50	**4.35**
CECON CHEW TAB 500 X 15	4.50	**4.35**
PHARMATON X 100	18.50	**17.60**
PHARMATON X 12	222.00	**210.90**
KIDDIE PHARMATON X 120 ML	148.50	**141.10**
IMMUVIT CAP X 48	20.00	**18.00**
VITAMIN B COMPLEX (PHAREX) X 100	2.00	**1.90**
NUTROPLEX W/ IRON & LYSINE SYRUP 60 ML	53.25	**50.50**
NUTROPLEX W/ IRON & LYSINE SYRUP 120 ML	95.00	**90.25**
NUTROPLEX W/ IRON & LYSINE SYRUP 250 ML	173.25	**164.50**
ORANGE SCOTTS EMULSION 20	144.25	**135.00**

FOR SORE THROAT



	BEFORE	NOW
VALDA CLASSIC PASTILLES	30.00	**20.00**

FOR DIARRHEA

IMODIUM CAPSULE X 200	11.15	**10.25**

FOR PAIN

CORTAL TABLET 325 MG X 200	1.00	**.90**

ANTISEPTICS

	BEFORE	NOW
BETADINE WOUND SOLUTION 60 ML	84.25	**80.10**
BETADINE WOUND SOLUTION 120 ML	136.75	**129.95**

ANTI-EMETIC

BONAMINE CHEW ADULT X 100	9.25	**8.75**
BONAMINE CHEW TABLET X 120	7.55	**7.25**
BONAMINE TABLET 25 MG X 240	8.50	**8.00**

LAXATIVE

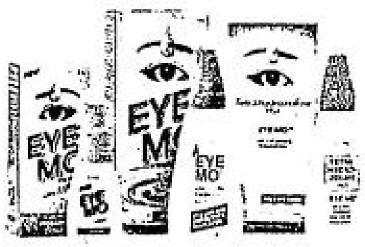
DULCOLAX TABLET	7.75	**7.35**

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

CITIZEN MANUAL ARM BP CH-308B	1995.00	**1900.00**

EYE CARE PREPARATIONS

	BEFORE	NOW
VISINE EYE DROPS REFRESH 10 ML	54.25	**50.00**
VISINE EYE DROPS COOL 10 ML	59.75	**56.25**
VISINE EYE DROPS 15 ML	64.75	**60.50**
VISINE EYE DROPS 10 ML	57.00	**53.50**
VISINE EYE DROPS 6 ML	46.00	**43.00**
EYE MO EYE REVITALIZING 9 ML	54.75	**50.00**



EYE MO EYE REVITALIZING 18 ML
BEFORE 74.75 **NOW 67.50**

EYE MO DAILY CARE FORMULA 17 ML
BEFORE 63.00 **NOW 56.50**

ELECTROLYTES

	BEFORE	NOW
PEDIALYTE BUBBLEGUM	94.75	**90.75**
PEDIALYTE BUBBLEGUM 45 / 500 ML	94.75	**90.75**
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PEDIALYTE MILD 30 STRAWBERRY **NOW 84.50** BEFORE 88.50

PEDIALYTE MILD 30 APPLE **NOW 84.50** BEFORE 88.50

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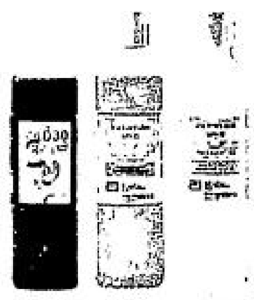

FOR COUGH/COLDS

	BEFORE	NOW
TUSERAN PLAIN	7.10	**6.75**
TUSERAN FORTE (5 + 1)	7.70	**6.50**
TUSERAN FORTE X 12	92.40	**87.80**
DECOLGEN FORTE TAB X 500	3.55	**3.40**
DECOLGEN FORTE TAB X 20	71.00	**67.45**
DECOLGEN SYRUP 60 ML	49.00	**46.55**
BISOLVON TAB X 200	8.30	**7.90**
BISOLVON FORTE CAP X 50	11.00	**10.45**
BISOLVON ADULT SYRUP 8 MG X 60 ML	85.00	**80.75**

BISOLVON ADULT SYRUP 8 MG X 120 ML **NOW 126.35** BEFORE 133.00

BISOLVON STRAWBERRY PEDIA SYRUP 60 ML **NOW 75.75** BEFORE 79.75

BISOLVON STRAWBERRY PEDIA SYRUP 120 ML **NOW 118.30** BEFORE 124.50

SLIMMING TEA

	BEFORE	NOW
KANKUNIS CAN	209.75	**188.80**
KANKUNIS TRIAL PACK	10.50	**9.45**
KANKURA CAN	198.50	**178.65**
KANKURA TRIAL PACK	47.50	**42.75**

HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS

	BEFORE	NOW
ABS BITTER HERBS CAPSULES X 40	12.00	**11.50**
ABS BITTER HERBS HANDYPACK 5 X20	60.00	**57.50**
ADD LIFE COQ 30 MG 6 X 50	18.50	**16.75**

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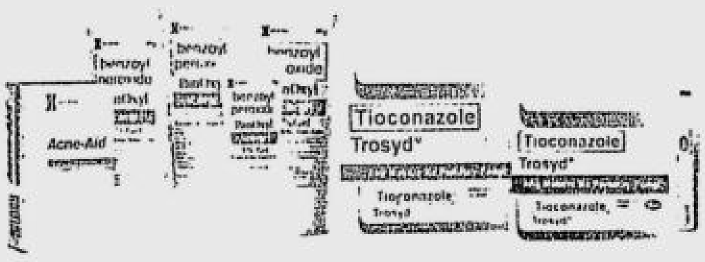
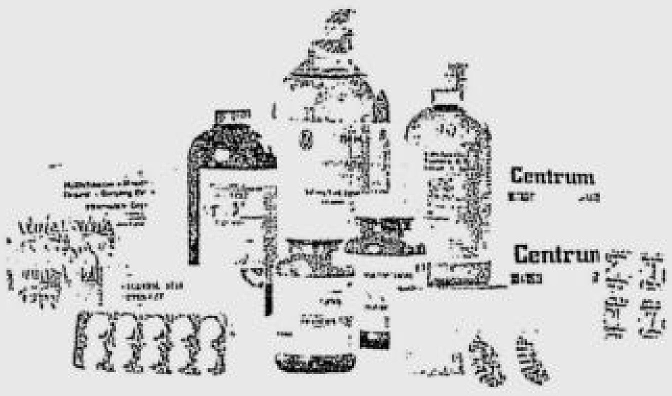
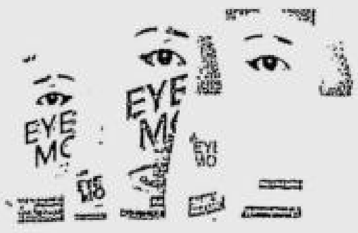


	BEFORE	NOW
ACNE AID BAR 50	84.75	80.50
ACNE AID BAR	116.00	110.20
DUOFILM LIQUID ML	28	268.30
PANOXYL ACNE GEL .0		255.10
PANOXYL ACNE GEL	128.75	122.35
PANOXYL ACNE GEL	281.00	266.95
PANOXYL ACNE GEL 40	293.	278.60
PANOXYL ACNE GEL	128	121.85
PANOXYL ACNE GEL	143.2	136.10
PANOXYL BAR	213 7	203.10
OILATUM BAR 100	116 0	110.20
SASTID BAR 100	116.0	110.20
SASTID BAR 50 G	84.	80.50
TROSYD CREAM	11	107.50
TROSYD CREAM 1	203	190.00
TROSYD CREAM	76.0	71.00
NIZORAL CREAM	106	100.00
NIZORAL CREAM		125.0



	NOW
VISINE EYE DROPS REFRESH	0.0
VISINE EYE DROPS COOL	
VISINE EYE DROPS	
VISINE EYE DROPS	
VISINE EYE DROPS	
EYE MO EYE REVITALIZING	



EYE MO EYE REVITALIZING

EYE MO DAILY CARE FORMUL

CEFACLOR MONOHYDRATE
XELENT
XELENT

AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE
SUMOXIL
SUMOXIL
SUMOXIL
SUMOXIL
SUMOXIL
SUMOXIL
SUMAPEN
SUMAPEN

ERYTHROMYCIN ETHYLSUC N.
ERYTHROCIN PE
ERYTHROCIN
ERYTHROCI

ERYTHROMYCIN STEARATE
ERYTHROCI
ERYTHROCIN

PEDIALYTE BUBBLEGUM
PEDIALYTE BUBBLEGUM 45 500 ML
LYTE BUBBLEGUM 90 500 ML
PEDIALYTE MILD 3 STRAWBERRY NOW 84.50
PEDIA E MILD 3 APPL NOW
PEDIALYTE MILD 30 GRAPE NOW 84.5

EY

ON

LORATIDINE
LORATYNE

TUSERAN PLAIN
TUSERAN FORTE
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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2004

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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THE NEWLYWEDS with their parents, Reynaldo and Virginia Peralta and Victoria and Leonides Santos

PERALTA-SANTOS NUPTIALS

Near decade-long romance finally leads to the altar

THE BRIDE with her entourage

ON A fine Saturday morning in March, Rolly Peralta took Liberty Santos for his wife, almost eight years after their first meeting.

The pair met on May 5, 1996 while working as volunteers for the Manila Disaster Action Team of the Red Cross Manila Chapter. Santos, Liby to family and friends, was a new nursing graduate while Peralta had already joined the Makati Rescue Team.

Peralta said he was drawn to Santos because of her bubbly and charming personality and always smiling face. She did not feel anything special about him, however.

Santos said it could have been because she was still tied to her college sweetheart at the time.

But instead of being discouraged, he persevered and after a year of regularly sending her white roses and love letters, he finally won her heart. Santos would later join the Makati Rescue Unit.

But Peralta still had to win her family's approval, especially that of her overprotective late grandfather, Lolo Nano.

After almost seven years of togetherness, the couple finally exchanged vows.

Rev. Fr. Monic Cadiz officiated at the solemn rites at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Baliuag, Bulacan.

The groom burst into tears as he watched his bride walk down the aisle, poised, smiling and radiant while the song "All My Life" played in the background. Her parents accompanied their only child.

The couple was teary-eyed as they began to recite their wedding vows.

Best man was Peralta's friend Guillermo Co, while maid of honor was Santos' cousin Tina.

Principal sponsors were the bride's uncles, Renato and Carolo Santos; her aunts Rosalie Tengco, Rosalinda Tacorda and Corazon Santos; and the groom's aunt Teresita Garcia and godmother Carmelita Pineda. Other sponsors were San Rafael Mayor Jaime Viceo, Jr., Drs. Eduardo de Villa and Mario Adraneda, Vina Arcola and Crispin Aquino.

Her cousins and members of his family were secondary sponsors: Abegail Santos and Randy Peralta, candles; Patrick Angelo Sison and Reginia Peralta, veil; and Roderick Peralta and Jenny Santos, cord.

The groom's godchildren Eaulrits Franze Galvez, Joseph Erick Garcia and Jose Miguel Carandang were ring, coin and Bible bearers, respectively, while the bride's nieces, Samantha Chomi, Clarisse Joy Sudario and Niña Grace Infartado, were flower girls.

About 200 people attended the wedding and reception at a clubhouse overlooking the Angat Dam. Guests enjoyed a buffet meal that included *lechon* and *lengua estofada*.

The bride is the daughter of Leonides and Victoria Santos, while the groom is the son of Reynaldo and Virginia Peralta.

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POMELO pink bridal gown for the finale, worn by Marina Benipayo

GALANG'S brides

25 years of passion for fashion and charity

ANN Torres in a figure-hugging bridal gown

FOR his silver anniversary, fashion designer Toni Galang proved that the secret to success is love for fashion, and passion for humanitarian activities.

Skillful as he is in merging Filipiniana design and contemporary style, Galang celebrated his 25th year in the business with a fashion show and a medical mission—something good to the eyes, and something good for the heart.

The dinner and fashion show was held several months ago at the Holiday Inn Galleria Suites. Michelle Joven of the Holiday Inn's Banquet Department made sure that all the guests, especially the *balikbayans*, would feel the warmth of being home in the Philippines.

Flowers, courtesy of Joyce Aguilar of 2171 Flowers, filled the banquet hall, and candles from Balay KandiLa were all around the foyer.

The fashion show featured Colorful handpainted ternos and barongs. With music provided by the Philippine Pop Orchestra, masterfully conducted by Gerry Samonte, and special dance numbers by the St. Emilene Cultural Dance Troupe led by Norma Pakingan, the mood evoked the quintessential Philippine town fiesta, which has been Galang's inspiration for his creations.

Two days after this event, with the help of Cebu Pacific, who made an additional flight schedule for the team, and Viva Mineral water and Cosmos Bottling Company, Galang and 140 members of the Medical Mission Foundation (MMF) of Michigan, flew to the Boracay Islands Municipal Hospital where a donation of half a million dollars' worth of medical equipment and supplies was made to the people of Malay, Aklan.

More than 2,000 outpatients were also attended to by the doctors, nurses and auxiliary members of the MMF headed by MMF chair Dr. Jacqueline Lougheed, together with founding chair Dr. Fanny dela Cruz, over-all committee head Lourdes Lim and the dynamic team of Daisy Diaz, Roy Lim and Rey Marzan, all RNs.

Four hundred dental and 500 major and minor surgical cases were treated. Around 200 eye problems were also attended to.

After the Municipal Hospital, the group went to Balabag Elementary School to treat 1,300 children. A fire drill was also held, and a talk on anti-terrorism and security against child abuse given by Stanley Richard of the Chicago Police Department.

The MMF has been conducting its yearly medical mission program in the Philippines for four years now. The team has been to Agoo and San Fernando in La Union, Ibahay in Aklan and Tondo General Hospital in Balut, Tondo.

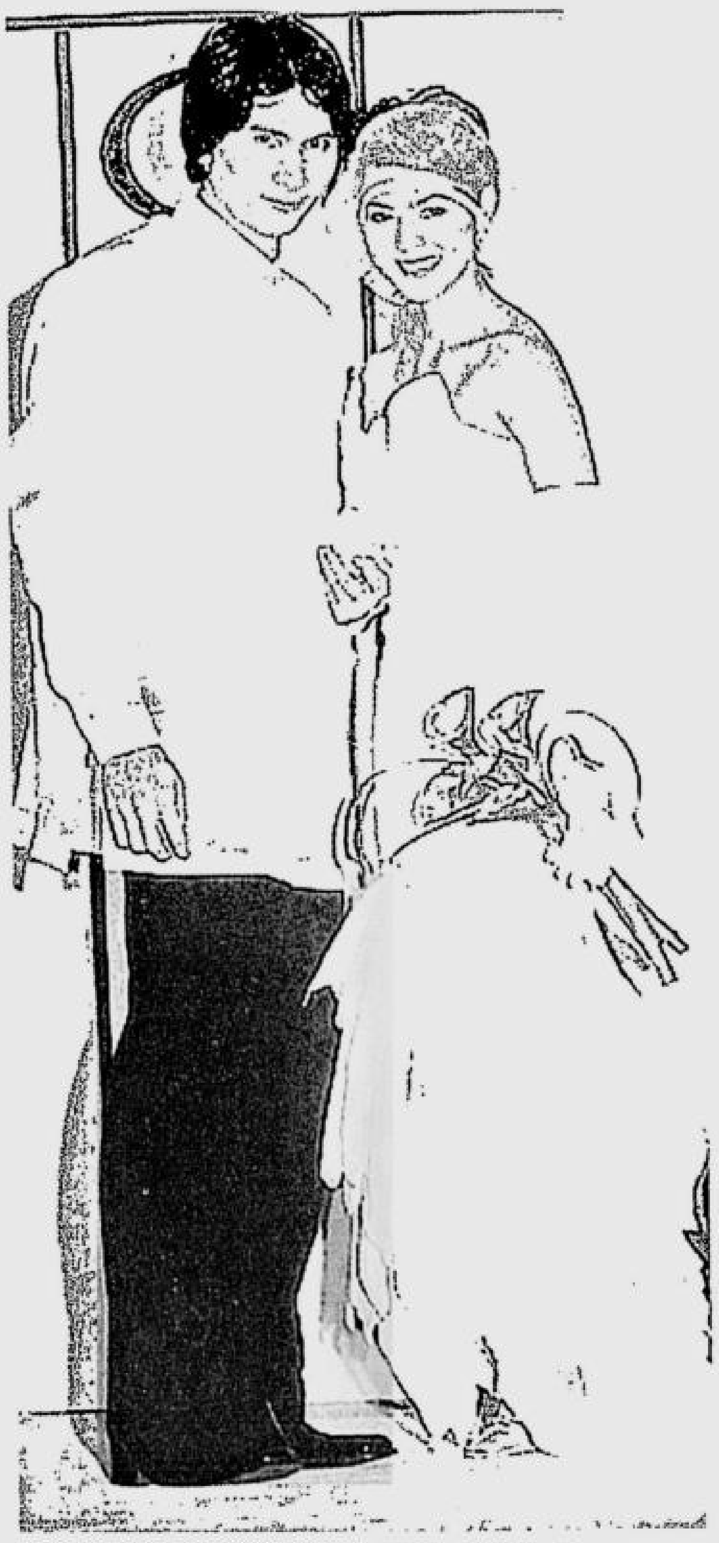


FIGURE-hugging bridal gown with multi-layered hanky skirt on Gladys Dueñas and hand-embroidered banana silk barong material on Ariel Atendido

JAM Alindogan, Toni Galang, Dr. Jacqueline Lougheed (Medical Mission Foundation chair), Liz Richard of Chicago and Ernie Rios of Seattle

SARAH Jane Paez with daughter Sarina, Marina Benipayo, Alta Tan, Lou Bunyi, Toni Galang, Dr. JB Abesamis, Desiree Verdadero-Abesamis with daughter Andrea, Patty Betita, Marilen Espino, Ann Torres and Gem Padilla

THE FATHER Pio Lend a Hand Foundation, represented by Rose Marie Arenas (seated, center), has signed a memo of agreement to help raise funds for Ateneo de Manila AHS '79 Foundation, represented by its president, Rodolfo Francisco (seated, right), Ateneo Alumni Association president Joselito Rivera (seated, left) and AHS '79 members (standing, L-R) Raymond Bautista, Antonio Guisande and Mike Kaluag. A fund-raising concert titled "Andrea Bocelli... Live in Manila" will be held on April 30 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Swimming, kickboxing classes

MANDARIN Oriental's Health Club is conducting courses on basic and advanced swimming and aero-kickboxing classes for members and nonmembers starting April 12.

In just ten days, learn basic swimming techniques or acquire the winning form, refined strokes and speed of professional swimmers in the advanced swimming courses.

The ten one-hour sessions for basic and advanced swimming are open to children above six years old and adults. There are one-on-one lessons for children and adults offered at P6,000 with the same privileges. Special rates apply to Health Club members. Classes are held 7 a.m.-8 a.m. and 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Monday to Friday. Call Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Health Club at 7508888 local 2330.

GOINGS ON

SUMMER SENSATIONS. Let kids 4-12 learn the magic of polymers, magnets, gigantic bubbles, biodiversity, the art of shadow puppetry, kite-making, paper making, rock painting, body crayons, the importance of virtue, kindness, respect, truth, gratitude and more at the Summit School, April 13-May 20, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Call 8819032/8819034.

PROMO. The Shopwise Super Sweetstakes offers up to P3 million in cash prizes. Customers can drop their entries until today at any Shopwise branch.

CAMP. Magnolia Cheezee and Cooking Basics Culinary School will hold a Kiddie Basics Camp on April 19, 21 and 23, May 3, 5 and 7 (Module 2) and May 17, 19 and 21 (Module 3). Workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 nn. at the Cooking Basics Culinary Studio, ground floor, Unit 5, Vivere Suites, Asean Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

SEMINAR. The Science of Mind and Man Center will hold a seminar on prosperity gospels drawn from science, philosophy, religion and the metaphysical. It's scheduled on April 19, 20, 21 and 23 at the third floor, Gold Condominium, 15 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan. Call 7213355/ 7213357/ 7211407.

WORKSHOP. Summit School is conducting a workshop on Classroom Assessments to Improve Teaching and Learning with Maria Paz Avery on April 27 at Summit School, University Parkway, Bonifacio Global City. Call 8819032/ 8819034.

SEMINAR. The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines is conducting a teacher training seminar on April 29-30. Call 3744967/ 3740973.

HIKE. The National Museum offers Biodiversity Hike through the National Museum for Biology teachers April 28-29 in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Call 5270278.

CONTEST. Ever Gotesco Mall's Kiddie Stars 2004 is now accepting contestants aged 4-7 years old for screening. Deadline for application for the May 7-9 screening is April 30. Call 2482474 or 2482839.

BAZAAR. Global Planners Inc. will hold the Back to School Bonanza May 27-28 at Tektite Towers, Philippine Stock Exchange Center in Ortigas, Pasig.
Call 6384585 or 6830900.

Conference on special education

THE UP Special Education Council and the Maria Domenicana Child Development Center will hold its fourth annual national benefit conference on special education on April 21, 22 and 23 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

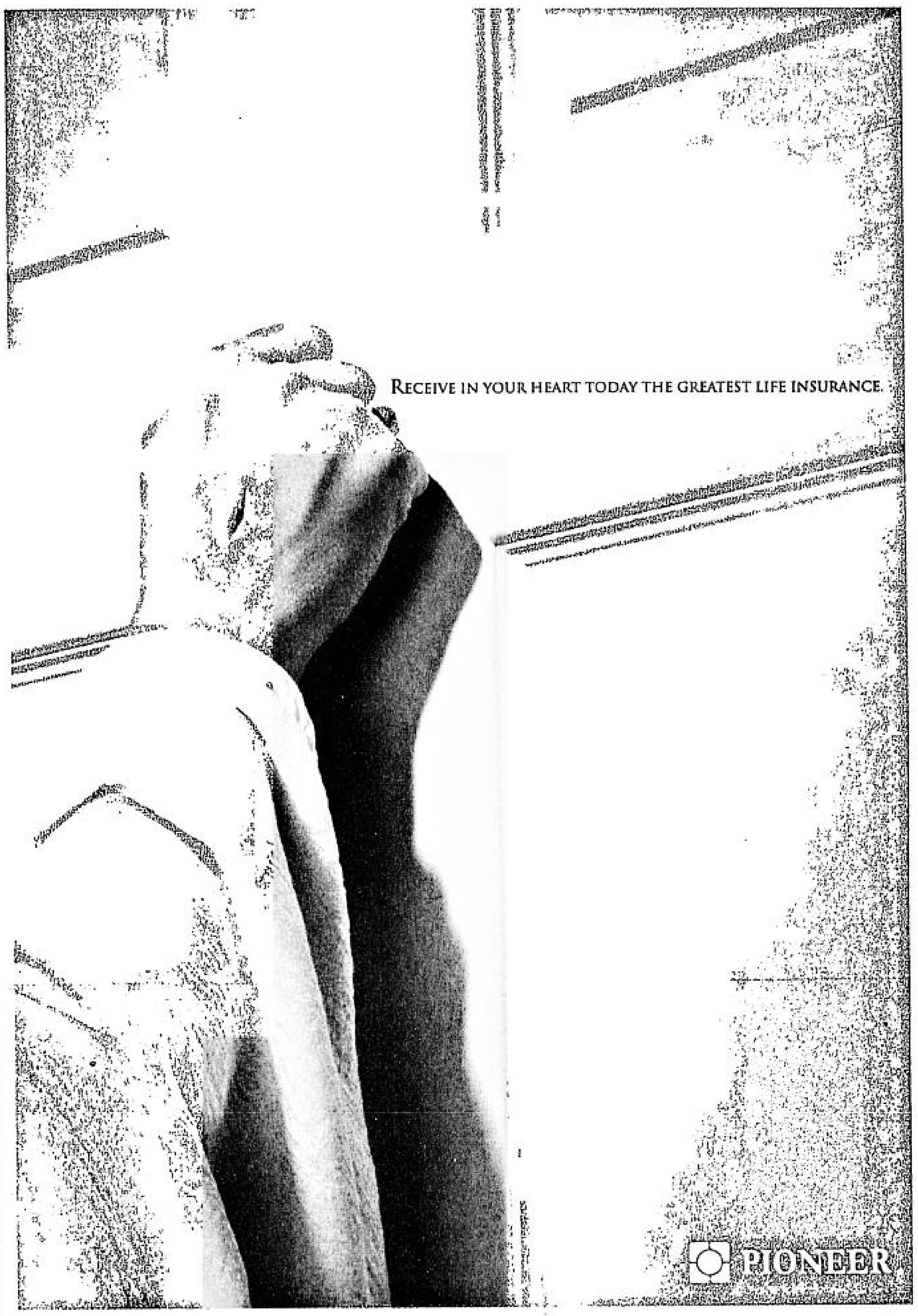
The theme of the conference is Pro-life, pro-humanity, pro-God: the meaning of serving special children and their families.

Dr. Edilberto Dizon, a UP Sped Professor and a Sped diagnostician-counselor at the St. Luke's Medical Center, leads the line-up of speakers.

The conference fee is P3,500, inclusive of certificate, handbook, snacks and lunches. A P500 discount is offered for early reservations until April 12.

Proceeds will go to the improvement and sustainability of Maria Domenicana's programs for children with special needs and upgrading of the facilities of the UP Special Education Area.

Call 9205301 local 6955 or 7258195.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Free access to fun games and prizes at the clubhouse daily from April 2 to 11

STAY AT THE HELLO KITTY SUITE AND WIN A SANRIO SHOWCASE!

Enjoy a magical Easter with the spell binding acts of **LOU HILARIO** and exciting egg hunts by the hour. Join the dress me up **BRATZ** game, **ZOIDS** coloring contest, **KNEX** building competition, **Uno** games, **He-Man** and **Yu-gi-oh** film showing, **Pictionary** tournament and loads of prizes and giveaways.

8:30am - EASTER MASS / 10:30am - 2:30pm - EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET: 1200++ adults / 600++ kids 12 yrs. old & below / 9am - 4pm - EGG HUNT & FUN ACTIVITIES / 3pm - LOU HILARIO MAGIC SHOW WITH PUPPET & EXOTIC BIRD SHOW

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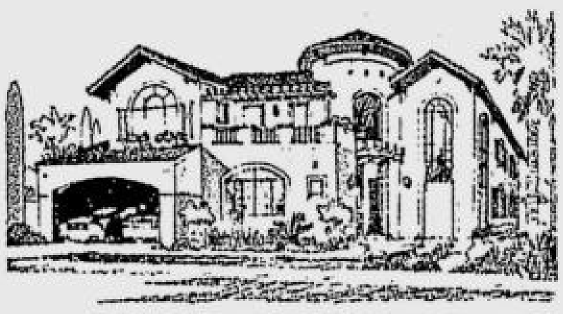
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City 1300, Philippines Tel: 551-5555 Fax: 551-5610 Email: bscenter@westinmanila.com Website: westin.com/manila

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino brings the outdoors, indoors

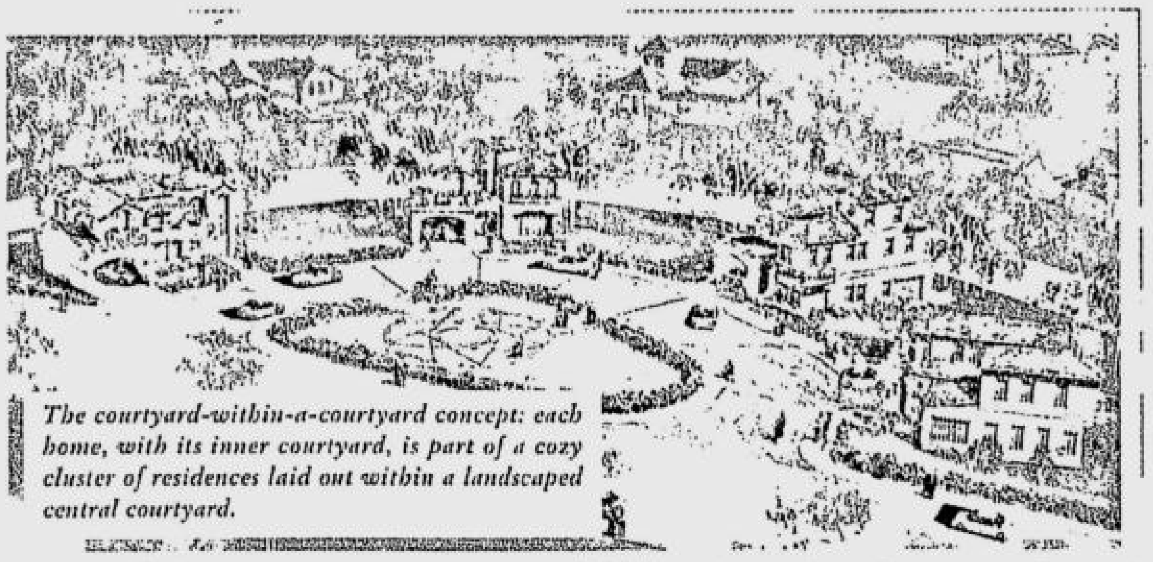
Brittany Corporation, the country's pioneer in creating uniquely themed properties, recreates the finest of Italian living in Courtyards of Portofino.

Only minutes away from the Alabang Commercial Center, Courtyards of Portofino is the high-end residential enclave that brings to reality a "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept, an ingenious design exclusive to Brittany.

Every home features its own inner courtyard. The homes themselves are laid out within a landscaped central courtyard.



Rembrandt, the most spacious Portofino Courtyard residence, exudes a sense of comfort and taste, for living on a grand scale.



The courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept: each home, with its inner courtyard, is part of a cozy cluster of residences laid out within a landscaped central courtyard.

The open space of each home's courtyard ranges between 20 to 30 sq. m., allowing for natural light and cool air. This means the courtyards provide for the benefits of the outdoors, indoors.

The architectural features of the courtyard homes are distinctly Italian. Porticos, arches resting on columns that frame hallways surround the courtyard. Some units feature *casitas*, rooms at the ground level ideal for staying guests.

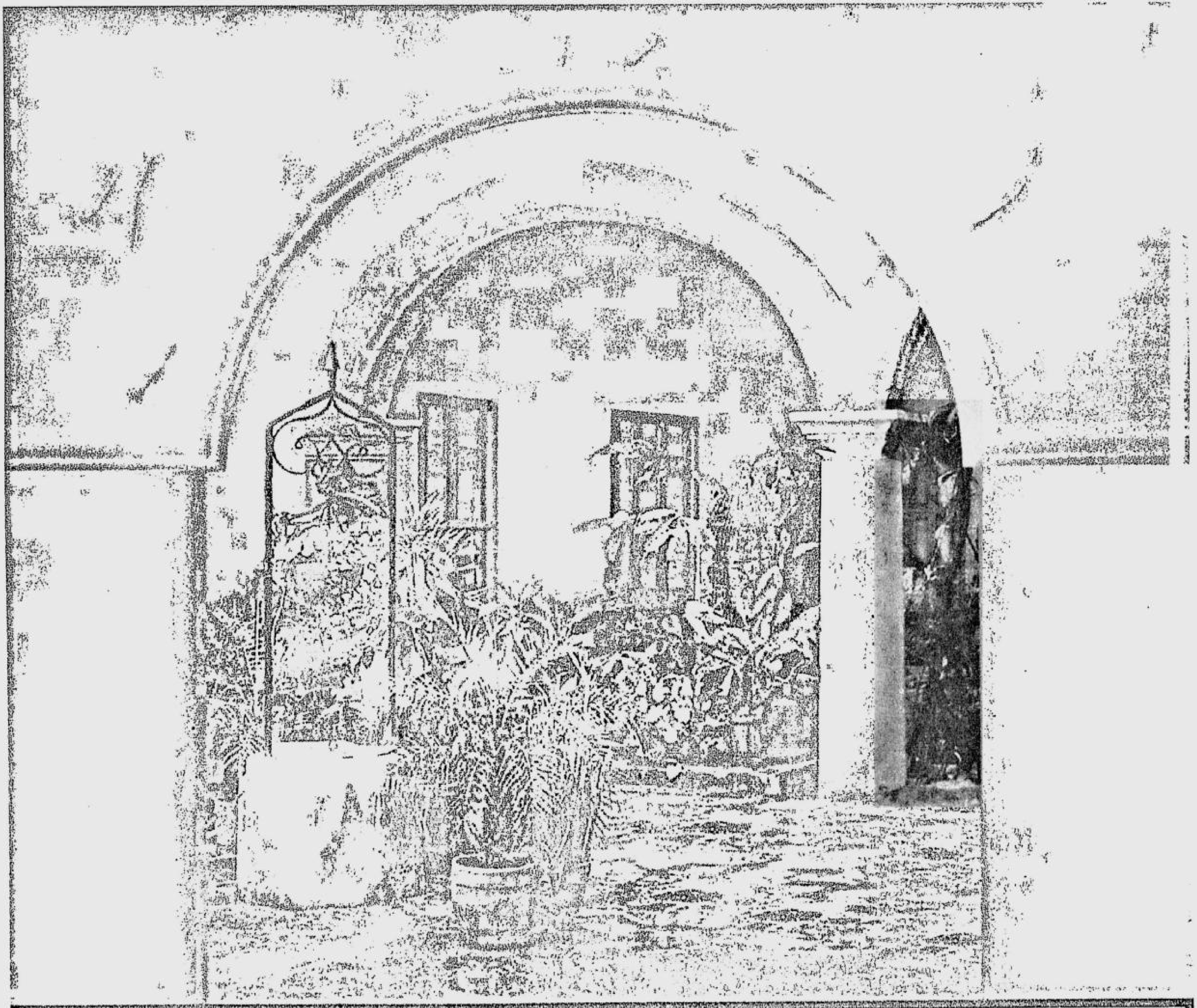
Rounded balconies, high ceilings, and majestic cupolas enhance the Italian look and feel of the courtyard homes, alongside the gardens, fountains, benches and cobblestone-accented streets.

Courtyards of Portofino offers a choice of four types of homes, each named after a European master artist, befitting the craftsmanship of each design.

- Cezanne, with a floor area of 193 sq. m., has a master's bedroom with a balcony, and a walk-in closet separating the bedroom from the toilet and bath.
- Monet, with bigger space, has a floor area of 233 sq. m. The house includes a *casita* on the ground floor and provisions for a family area on the third floor.
- Raphael, with a floor area of 249 sq. m., is a four-bedroom home with a family area on the third floor. Its courtyard connects to a lanai.
- Rembrandt, the most spacious model, has a floor area of 260 sq. m. The residence is accented with a trellis on the side of the "Balcon Arrandi" (rounded balcony) out in front. Inside, the staircase overlooks a cathedral-type window.

One of four ongoing developments of Brittany Corporation, Portofino, Italian for fine gateway, takes its name from the charming seaport town in southern Italy. Brittany's Portofino is aptly named, being strategically located near the Alabang entrance of the new Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road.

The courtyard homes offer the benefits of the outdoors indoors including natural light and ventilation.



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OF
Portofino

At Courtyards of Portofino, you can enjoy a breath of fresh air just by staying at home. The inner courtyard, a wide open space, lets in cool air and natural light. Surrounding the courtyard are porticos, arches found in classic Italian homes. Through the courtyard, you have access to the *casitas*, ground level rooms ideal for your guests. Outside, the cobblestone-accented roads and the flowers in terra cotta pots enhance the property's old world charm.

Moreover, the courtyard homes surround bigger, central courtyards. This makes for a courtyard-within-a-courtyard, an ingenious design that is uniquely Brittany.

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- Willing to work on graveyard shifts.

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- College level or graduates of any Technical or Computer-related course;
- With or without experience in customer service role;
- Fluent in the English language and with good listening skills;
- Highly responsible with strong interpersonal skills;
- Willing to work on graveyard shifts.

A highly competitive remuneration package will be offered to the chosen candidates. Aspirants may forward their resumes indicating the keyword in it & in the e-mail subject line, to the address below or send **SMS** by typing **Profile(space)<keyword> (space) <name, cellphone & landline numbers and send to 700JOBS (700-5627)**. FOR SMART USERS ONLY.

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- Degree holders of Accountancy or any related business course; CPA or with MBA units desirable;
- With minimum five years of experience, three of which is in supervisory level in the fields of Accounts Payable, Cost Control, Supply Chain Accounting, Auditing, or Inventory Control;
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Keyword: <FIN011>

- Graduates of Accounting, CPA or non-CPA;
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Candidates for all positions should have strong Excel and Powerpoint skills. MS ACCESS knowledge is a plus.

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Our client is a Fortune 50 company and the 3rd largest grocery chain in the United States. To support their expanding operations, they are looking for highly motivated and energetic IT professionals to assume the following positions:

SYSTEMS & DATABASE ADMINISTRATORS (Unix / SQL / DB2)
Keyword: <IT012>

- With experience in support relational database technology with full knowledge of MVS OS/390 DB2, JCL, TSO or CICS (for DB2) ; With experience in Unix System Administration & preferably with knowledge in DB2/UDBB, Informix or Teradata, Legato, Veritas products, Websphere, MQ Series (for Unix); With experience in SQL/ Windows or UDB/Unix or with DB2 Universal Database (for SQL)

PROGRAMMERS (TANDEM/BASE 24)
Keyword: <IT013>

- Proficient in Tandem environment & with experience in TAL, COBOL85, SCOBOLX languages
- With in-depth understanding of BASE24 POS transactional flow and processing
- Preferably with experience in SPDH device handler, BICI, STRI and VISA interchange

An above industry compensation package awaits the chosen candidates. Aspirants may forward their resumes indicating the keyword in it and in the e-mail subject line, to the address below or send **SMS** by typing **Profile(space)<keyword> (space) <name, cellphone & landline numbers and send to 700JOBS (700-5627)**. FOR SMART USERS ONLY.

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Our client is a leading online provider of print-on-demand publication and marketing services in strategic partnership with one of the world's largest publishing houses. It is setting up operations in Cebu and is looking for key personnel for leadership positions.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Consumer Desk -10

Responsible for financial and operational performance of the publishing operations, he will oversee all aspects of operations including order processing, production, and customer service. He must provide leadership, strategic direction and tactical objective definition & execution as well as manage key partnerships, managers and initiatives. **Must have a minimum 4 years operational management experience, preferably in publishing. Other open positions reporting to the Operations Director are the following:**

SUBMISSIONS MANAGER *(Consumer Desk-11)* Oversee evaluation and processing of all new manuscripts to ensure compliance to company standards prior to publication. Working knowledge of Adobe Systems applications (Pagemaker, Photoshop, Acrobat Reader) is preferred.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER *(Consumer Desk-12)* Ensure customer satisfaction from submission to publication, minimizing author-related issues and prioritizing projects & production schedules.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER *(Consumer Desk-15)* Review and analyze all process flows and procedures to ensure consistent quality of service throughout the operations and recommend improvements.

CALL CENTER MANAGER *(Consumer Desk-13)* Respond to all inquiries received via phone or e-mail. Responsible for administration of call center, ensuring operator, prospect, marketing services and post-publication concerns are addressed appropriately within acceptable answer rates and service levels.

PICTURE BOOK MANAGER *(Consumer Desk-14)* Management and oversight of production of picture book product line. Responsible for pre-press production, from pre-order processing to development of electronic print files. **Must have extensive knowledge of Quark, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Distiller. Knowledge of four-color printing processes also necessary. Minimum 4 years management experience in a graphic design environment required.**

All Candidates must have at least Bachelor's Degree and a working knowledge of Microsoft Office Applications. Candidates for Directors positions with Masteral degrees would have an advantage

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
Consumer Desk - 20

Responsible for the leadership and direction of all human resource activities including the creation and implementation of HR programs, policies and practices. Must have a sound understanding of organizational needs and goals and a good grasp of personnel management techniques. **At least 5 years managerial experience is required and a masteral degree in Human Resources would be an advantage. Other open positions reporting to the HR Director are the following:**

RECRUITMENT MANAGER (Consumer Desk-21)
Administer and improve ongoing recruitment process, attracting high quality candidates.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS MANAGER (Consumer Desk-22)
Ensure competitive compensation and benefits within the organization, aiming for above-industry standards.

ASSESSMENT MANAGER (Consumer Desk-23)
Administer comprehensive assessment on new hires to ensure best fit to company.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL MANAGER (Consumer Desk-24)
Oversee design and implementation of balanced performance appraisal system aligned to the company's operational goals.

Our client offers above-industry compensation and excellent career opportunities. ***Candidates must be willing to relocate to Cebu.*** *Please forward your resume with the appropriate code to the address indicated*

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PO Box 2102, Makati Central Office, Makati City
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Graduate of Accountancy, Finance or Economics
Preferably a CPA
At least 1 year working experience gained from a management consulting/auditing firm
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Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume and recent 2x2 photograph not later than 21 April 2004 to:

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> Excellent coaching, motivational & leadership skills
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ACCOUNTANT (AC)

> At least 2 years of experience in General/ Corporate Accounting
> Willing to work in different shifts
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> Preferably CPA

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST (QAS)

> Strong listening and analytical skills
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Make sure to indicate the job code on your application: TSE-RMS

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Candidate must possess a four-year degree gained from business or computer courses.
- Fresh graduates with good scholastic records may apply. However, preference will be applicants with at least a year's work experience, some of which was gained from the fields of customer service or technical support.
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- Must have the passion to learn.
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- Computer literate

TRAINING SPECIALIST

- 24-28 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Organizational Development and other related courses
- Can develop and implement training and OD programs;
- Knowledgeable in conducting Training Needs Analysis
- Can facilitate and conduct training/seminars/workshops can develop instructor's and participants bundle kit with visual aids
- Excellent communications skills, interpersonal skills, self starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision
- experience in other HR areas such as recruitment/staffing, employee relations will be an advantage
- 2-3 years experience

SENIOR MARKETING OFFICER

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- with a strong background in advertising, planning and marketing strategies
- Can conceptualize effective marketing and advertising campaigns
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly creative, with a keen eye for details and organized
- Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills

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- Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduate of two (2) or four (4) year course
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SYKES is a US based Company, headquartered in Tampa, Florida, providing CRM solutions for many of the world's leading global companies. We have 25 years legacy of working with financial, technology and communication leaders, nurturing more than 17,000 employees, supporting 40 different languages in 55 countries. We provide robust contact center services emphasizing on Technical Support and Customer Service. We are known for building fast track dynamic careers.

We invite you to join us for MANAGEMENT POSITIONS (Code: MP)

Minimum 3 years and above hands-on experience as ***ACCOUNT MANAGER/IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER/OPERATIONS DIRECTOR/SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER*** in a Call Center or Service industry. Your key responsibilities will include mentoring team members, handling escalations and providing technical inputs to agents. Addressing issues regarding performance as well as monitoring, overseeing situations that often fall outside standard processes and procedures, counseling and coaching of members will be part of your responsibilities.

Ideal Candidates should have:

- A degree in Engineering, Science, Commerce or Management
- Effective Communication and presentation skills
- Ability to interpret data into solid facts and figures
- Ability to lead, motivate and supervise people.
- Wide exposure in a highly customer-oriented function.

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- With at least two (2) years experience as a hair coloring expert gained from reputable beauty saloons
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SERVICE MANAGER

Grounds and Landscapes Maintenance

QUALIFICATION:

- Male, 35-45 years old
- Graduate of Agronomy or Horticulture
- Minimum of Seven (7) Years Experience in Landscape Contracting, Golf Course Maintenance or Other Allied Fields
- Strong Leadership and Interpersonal Skills
- Excellent Written and Oral Communication Skills
- Preferably with Sales and Marketing Experience and A Solid Network in the Grounds and Landscapes Maintenance Industry

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Please mail comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 ID photos and other credentials to:

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3) **Production Assistant** — Industrial Eng grad. w/ at least 2-3 years exp. in a bag mfg. firm
4) **Bag Sewer** — Experience in bag sewing
5) **Cutter/Pattern Maker** – With 2-3 years experience

Please send your resume with recent picture to: 100 Kaingin Road, Balintawak, Quezon City.

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COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The CBRMP is a government project under the Department of Finance with financing assistance from the World Bank. It seeks to pump-prime and enhance the capacities of LGUs in Regions 5, 7, 8 and 13 to manage their natural resources and rural development concerns. The project invites qualified applicants for the following vacant positions:

1 Marketing and Enterprise Development Specialist (Central Office)

- BS Agricultural Business, Marketing or Business Marketing (master's degree in related fields is an advantage)
- Extensive experience working in local or foreign-assisted community-driven rural development projects with strong livelihood enterprise development components
- Substantial experience in rural marketing and enterprise development
- Strong community organizing, communication, research and report-writing skills
- Experience in conducting capacity-building training with rural communities
- Willing and able to travel to remote areas in Regions 5, 7, 8 and 13 (Visayan literacy an advantage)
- Competence in Microsoft applications (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and use of the Internet

4 Technical Assistants for M&E (Central Office)

Rural Infrastructure and Procurement
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Livelihood
- BS Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agri-Business or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Aquatic Resources
- BS Marine Science, Marine Biology, Fisheries or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Information Management
- BS Statistics, Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agri-Business or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Work experience in development oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

2 Procurement Specialists (1 for Central office; 1 for Region 7)

- BS Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environmental Science, Community Development, Commerce, Civil Engineering, or related courses
- At least 5 years experience in procurement and contracting works, preferably in development-oriented and foreign-assisted projects
- Computer literate (working knowledge on database is in advantage)

Candidates for the positions must be good team players willing and able to travel to remote upland and coastal areas, and can work beyond office hours with minimum supervision. Send letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before 16 April 2004 to:

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)
7th Floor, EDPC Building, BSP Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

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FOR AL-QUDAH INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE SERVICES EST. with POEA Accreditation #: 73612

Requirements:

2x2 Picture (3 copies)	Certificate of Employment
Transcript of Records	(at least 2 years experience)
PRC License/PRC Board Cert.	22 – 32 Yrs. Old
Passport	*Female Single only

Schedule of INTERVIEW will be on APRIL 15, 2004
Interested applicants may apply personally to:
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Tel No: 832-0880 / 832-8763
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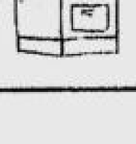

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SELLING MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity
- responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER

- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions
- responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- must be a Certified Public Accountant
- with 2 to 5 years managerial / supervisory experience in all aspects of accounting operations

HUMAN RESOURCE SUPERVISOR

- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any 4-year business course
- with 2 to 3 years supervisory experience specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources • Accounting)

- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Accountancy
- Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Candidates for the positions should have the following competencies:

- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written form
- Can relate well with all levels of the organization
- Proficient in computer software application
- Team-player, goal-oriented and able to work well under pressure
- Willing to grow with the organization
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

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TeamAsia is a strategic marketing communications firm. It has established a reputation for developing innovative communication strategies, and executing them with very high standards of professionalism.

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Program managers are responsible for executing high-profile corporate and public events. Individuals who excel at this job have a:

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- ■ The emotional maturity to handle the stress associated with organizing high-profile events
- ■ A passion to plan, implement, and deliver results despite challenging hurdles
- ■ A relentless "CAN-DO" personality

Program Assistant

Program assistants are future program managers. They should demonstrate:

- ■ A high energy level
- ■ A desire to learn
- ■ The determination to grow professionally and excel at their work

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TeamAsia provides creative services for multinational corporations, U.S. Fortune 500 companies, and medium-size enterprises in North America and Asia. Graphic artists should demonstrate the talent and productivity required to meet the exacting demands of world-class clients.

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By Joel Garfinkle

My TRABAHO

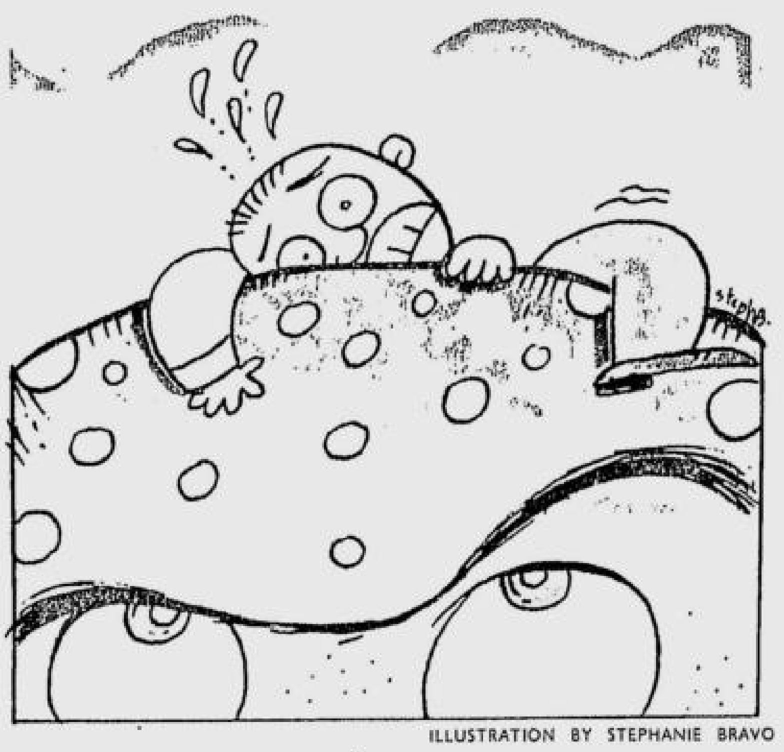

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

YOU probably have a few barriers that are standing in your way and preventing you from daring yourself to new levels of greatness. Barriers, though they are imaginary obstacles, seem very real at the moment you experience them. What you must realize is that whenever you find yourself resisting anything during the dream job process, know that it is fear talking. When you begin to understand why you're having difficulty moving forward in the process, you can identify the fear and be ready to move on with confidence and embrace your greatness. Identify your barriers and then you can begin to come up with a plan so that you can take action and let the momentum you create help carry you towards the life you want and deserve.

1. Time

We must take time for ourselves, but it's difficult to commit time, especially when you are working a full-time job. We're taught to put others needs and wants before our own and often wind up tired, overscheduled and with no energy for ourselves. Schedule daily appointments with yourself in order to take time away from your busy life and become clear on where to direct your energy and time.

2. Fear of change and success

Many people enjoy the status quo and don't want to make a change to become more successful. Though they state that they do indeed want success, they choose to stay in their comfort zone. Success is the unknown and the unknown is often feared. Increased success means change and an increased level of responsibility. It takes courage and risk for most of us to take the leap and find a fulfilling job. After we've achieved success, we must maintain that success and that takes effort. We must live with a new reality, a new view of ourselves and a new way of relating to the world. It is so much easier to daydream about "someday" than it is to actually take the steps to make "someday" a reality and live it on a day to day basis. That requires work and commitment and many of us find it easier to live in the daydream of "what if" than to make it "what is".

3. Fear of failure

The most common fear of them all. We fear so many things about failure. We fear making a fool out of ourselves, we fear losing our security, we fear stepping backwards instead of forward, we fear making the wrong decision, we fear not being able to live up to standards (whether they are ours or society's), we fear being labeled a failure or a loser. There can be so much fear that it is often paralyzing. We have no idea where to begin to deal with all the fears that we just simply stay where we are.

4. Isolation and lack of support

Isolation is a dream job killer. We all need support to land the job of our dreams. Daring ourselves and moving forward are often facilitated when we have a great support system. When we find ourselves trying to go it alone, it's more likely that we'll have setbacks and just stay where we are. In many cases, understanding who you are and what you enjoy doing is enhanced with the help of others. If we don't have support, it's often too overwhelming and easier to just play it safe and stay at our current level of mediocrity.

5. Shoulds from family and society

Throughout our lives, we hear many messages about how we should act. We become conditioned and socialized to act in acceptable ways that may not always be in our best interests. We often live a life doing what others tell us we should. We're told/taught "Don't rock the boat," "Fit in, be like everyone else", "This is how it's done" and more. Being like everyone else may not be where our greatness lies and we wind up not even knowing what we want in a dream job. We fear rejection so much that we often play small just to fit in. We take our place as one of the mindless worker ants, trudging through the same routines, complaining about the same problems and realizing the same small results. We must move from our shoulds to our genuine wants or desires.

6. Financial obligations and fear of poverty

Financial obligations such as mortgages, credit card bills, college savings for children and more can restrain us. If your survival depends on your income alone, this is a fear you may experience when facing dramatic changes in your life. Recognize that you have control over the changes you wish to bring about and can do so gradually while maintaining a secure income from a familiar source. Thus, you can ease into the life you want one step at a time and reduce the threat of poverty.

7. Comparing and despairing

There will always be someone who is "better." Someone who has more, lives better, is more fulfilled, etc. Comparison is a losing game. It lets us run round in endless circles and provides many excuses for not doing anything more—"I'll never be as good an actor as Meryl Streep so why should I even go on any auditions?" "I'll never be able to get a recording contract like Garth Brooks so why should I work on my singing career?" The fact that acting is your passion or singing speaks to your soul gets lost somehow.

8. Self doubt

We see ourselves as less than who we really are and feel we are unworthy to receive all that we deserve. Our own fears, limitations and mental criticisms alienate us from our goal. Self-doubt is one of the biggest obstacles to achieving our dreams. We often ignore ourselves in favor of others. We value their opinions too highly and our own too little. The only real approval that matters is that which comes from inside ourselves. We're the only people who know what we truly need and want. This makes us our own best judge of whether or not what we're doing is right and good for us. We must shift from self doubt to belief. If we tap into our true gifts and unleash our essence, we come from a place of strength. It is possible to be all we can during the dream job process.

9. Not knowing what you would love to do

Most people don't know what they want or what they enjoy doing. They don't know what they value or believe in. They aren't sure where they are going and how to get there. This frustration of not knowing freezes people from taking the risk and having the courage to find out what they would love to do.

10. Fear of making the wrong decision

Each decision you make will lead you down a unique path with challenges and opportunities of its own. You may have several options you would like to try and worry that only one will be the right one and spend endless time trying to decide which is best. Thinking a situation through in a thorough manner is a good thing. We weigh pros and cons and find the best way to achieve our goals. However, analyzing can be used to avoid action. We can make endless lists, but if items never get checked off the list, what good is it? It's easy to get lost in the details and never get around to doing anything because you're too busy planning for every possible contingency. Life is not so easily split into right or wrong, black or white. It is made up of many shades of gray. Don't allow analysis to become an excuse for inaction.

Helen Keller said, "The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome. The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse."

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Send a letter describing your dream job and what you can do to contribute to the country's development once you get your dream job, together with your bio-data and one 1X1 photo through postal mail to **"My Trabaho at Job Market," Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St., Makati City**. You can also handcarry your documents to any of Inquirer's Classified Ads branch offices in Metro Manila. First 30 beneficiaries of job search assistance will be picked on April 21. For more information, call (632) 897-8808 local 237.

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- Call center experience preferred
- Bachelors / College Degree preferred

Benefits

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Applicants may apply in person Mondays to Friday between 10 am to 6 pm at the 8th Flr., Tower 2, Insular Life Corporate Centre Corporate Ave. cor. Commerce Ave., Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For Inquiries call 8578000. You may also apply online at www.epixtar.com/careers.

Sales Executive

Conduct outbound phone sales to businesses and consumers in a high-energy, positive, state-of-the-art work environment offering a variety of products and services on behalf of Epixtar's clients

With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information.

Work with a focused, results oriented, team environment, while developing your professional sales and customer service skills to enhance your career opportunities. Periodic reviews assess work quality, work efficiency, and communication effectiveness for ongoing performance enhancement.

Team Leader

Supervise phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10-12 sales executives. Your mandate will be to drive performance quality within the center on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

Using a variety of statistical reports and real time interaction with the sales executives, you will be charged with constantly improving quality and performance.

The ideal candidate will proactively identify, recommend and implement program enhancements that support client objectives and expectations.

Team Leaders are expected manage and motivate sales executives to help them reach their full potential as Epixtar employees through floor presence (minimum 80%) and one-on-one counseling and coaching.

Program Manager

Manage phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10 15 Team Leaders with a span of control encompassing anywhere from 100 150 agents. Reporting to the program manager, you will be responsible for smooth operations among multiple campaigns

The ideal candidate will have a thorough command of management best practices, extensive call center experience with a detailed understanding of the specifics of outbound/inbound campaign supervision. You will be expected to provide leadership on the floor and ongoing management of your reports with the ability to quickly and effectively resolve day-to-day call center challenges to realize our clients' business objectives

You will work closely with team leaders to guide them as they contend with their own management responsibilities. To be effective you will engage n extensive one-on-one counseling and coaching.

Sales Trainer

Epixtar's sales trainer will be at the forefront of creating a successful sales team educated in effective sales techniques and call management The successful candidate will bring extensive practical sales experience together with excellent training methodology and a dynamic personality. This individual will have responsibility to forge a formidable sales force, by providing and teaching the skills and technical know-how to make them top-notch sales executives.

In addition to instructor led training, Epixtar sales trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance reviews, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall level of effectiveness and efficiency.

Accent Trainer

The American accent trainer will be responsible for developing, delivering, and evaluating accent training and ongoing speech communication refresher courses. This person should have a complete understanding of all facets of English instruction: listening comprehension, speech clarity, reading comprehension, and written expression. With a thorough knowledge of American culture and regional accents, the candidate will present a picture of U.S. life to balance language instruction

Together with instructor led training, Epixtar accent trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance evaluation, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall quality of pronunciation and American English comprehension. The candidate will also be expected to be a subject matter expert on American culture to support ongoing learning opportunities within Epixtar's training environment

Front Desk Associate

Epixtar needs a receptionist with an outgoing, engaging personality and the ability to direct calls to the appropriate destination within the organization. We believe that an organization is judged by the first impression it makes on a customer, vendor, potential employee or stock holder.
With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information

The successful candidate will represent Epixtar as a well-spoken, efficient organization to each and every caller.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market

Fast relief from fears

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE WORKPLACE can cause a great deal of stress when it is a seedbed of fears. Fears are an offshoot of attachment—we become afraid when we do not want to lose something that gives us so much satisfaction, whether it is a nice office, a big salary and fringe benefits, an enviable position, opportunities to show off our skills, the authority we wield, or the esteem of coworkers. Normally, the more we have of these, the more attachments we tend to form; thus, the more numerous our fears, and the greater our stress. Compare the work-related stress/fears of a TV station manager to those of an assembly line worker. Who's likely to suffer more at work? The one who has more to lose, right?

The image of Jesus' empty tomb in today's gospel can help in overcoming fears. Wherever we happen to be in the company's organizational chart, it can assure us of relative freedom from fears. The empty tomb tells us that He who once was dead is now alive again. Jesus who in His lifetime stood for all that was right and good is risen. He is with us and has a hand in our affairs, and He's very much present in the workplace!

If we truly believe this, we will do our best to align our actions to everything right and good that He stood for. We will do our job knowing He is around and will be there always to keep us from falling. Whether our job requires us to supervise 50 people or to simply sew on buttons the whole day, such a divine guide will help us maintain a clear conscience. And when it comes to fears, stress or inordinate attachments, nothing can liberate us faster than a clear conscience. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Good Job!
stephB.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel Mt. 28: 1-10

The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified... he has been raised just as he said..."

No fear!

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

BEING afraid is one experience we all have and which we long to get rid of in our life. Some phobia of ours somehow limit our enjoyment of what life brings. Fear may be so great, like what the soldiers felt when they were "shaken with fear ... and became like dead men" (as they were guarding Jesus' tomb and witnessed His resurrection from the dead) that it could be so destructive in our work.

We sometimes feel paralyzed in our work because of fear. There are those who literally shake, tremble, or feel blank because of fear when the overbearing and sometimes unreasonable boss is around. Some would hesitate to initiate improvements in their work or to be more creative in their jobs because they are afraid to fail or they think their ideas will not get the approval of their boss. Others are afraid to quit their jobs even if they feel bored and find no more meaning in their work—also because of fear: fear of not finding another job. There are supervisors who would just close an eye on the blunders committed by some workers under them or would not discipline those who lack proper working habits, because they are afraid to lose their workers' friendship and support. We must therefore banish the destructive fear in our life and in the workplace.

Faith in "Jesus the crucified ...who has been raised from the dead" is our antidote to fear. When we know that Jesus has conquered sin and death, the worst of all human fears, and feel His presence in the world and in our workplace, we will have no fear and will be able to live and work with joy and gladness! (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'My colleague took my money!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an avid reader of your column. I am presently connected to a private institution, as the assistant college librarian.

This problem started late last year. I attended a seminar last summer in Cebu City together with other librarians, including one who has been working for six years in the institution. We each had individual budgets for the seminar. The problem occurred when she made the breakdown of our expenses. My budget was totally drained; nothing was left! Unknown to me, there was a cash remainder of P211.00, which was an excess for my colleague's budget and was supposed to be returned by her, as it was her money left from the seminar. This money was deducted from my salary, but should have been deducted from her salary. What I did was, I asked her first why she did not return the money and why it was deducted from me rather than from her. I asked her, "Miss, where did the money go?" and she just replied, "You know, family matter." I couldn't believe she could do that to me. And I asked her *"Miss, basig nagkaminos ka nako"*(Cebuano) and she replied *"Siguro."*

Recently, I brought this problem to our school president, in the hope that the problem will be settled. I told the president what really happened to our working place. I asked the president to talk with my colleague. But my colleague refused to talk with the president, saying that she is not yet ready. So, I told the president "Father, I stuck to the issue, to the problem in the working place, not the personal issue," and he simply replied, "We are unique individuals." His answer is far from my problem. Ma'am, please help me with this problem. Thank You.

Problematic

Thank you very much for sharing your dilemma with us. You'd be surprised how often this happens in the workplace.

We Filipinos are not a litigious people. We rely on "gut-feel" and relationships to guide our actions and regulate our behaviors instead of looking to written policies, administrative procedure and laws to tell us what to do. We enter relationships with a high level of trust and get easily tired of signing official documents detailing the powers and the limits of parties concerned.

When we are dedicated to what we do and find a sense of mission in our work, we sometimes get careless about documentation. We trust that our coworkers are also coming from the perspective of trust and we have faith that we will get what is due to us.

Though this is definitely a positive position to take, it can leave us open to other people's carelessness. Others can take advantage of us, as has happened to us also in Ancilla. These events were pockets of learning that, painful though the process may be, enabled Ancilla to be where it is today.

From your letter, I sense that this might be your perspective. You trusted your coworker to liquidate the money allotted to you in the proper way. But she didn't.

I suggest that you chalk the amount the company deducted from you as the cost of learning. Believe me, you will be more careful next time. Even the Bible warns us of being too lax in controls. Jesus admonishes, "Be as meek as lambs and as wise as serpents."

Below are suggestions on handling money and information that might help in avoiding this kind of situation and other awkward ones in the future:

1) Always personally sign for money you are accountable for.

2) Use funds only for their specified use.

3) Liquidate as soon as you can. It is easy to mistake change as your personal pocket money and very irritating when you realize you spent it on call cards or candy.

4) When dealing with other currencies, track the exchange rates every time you convert and keep an updated list of expenses. Back this list up with receipts, vouchers and other forms indicating proof of purchase.

5) Do not co-sign for other people.

6) Do not be a guarantor for other people's bills. (e.g. mobile phone, ISPs, etc)

7) Never let others use your credit card.

8) Do not give your ATM pin to anyone.

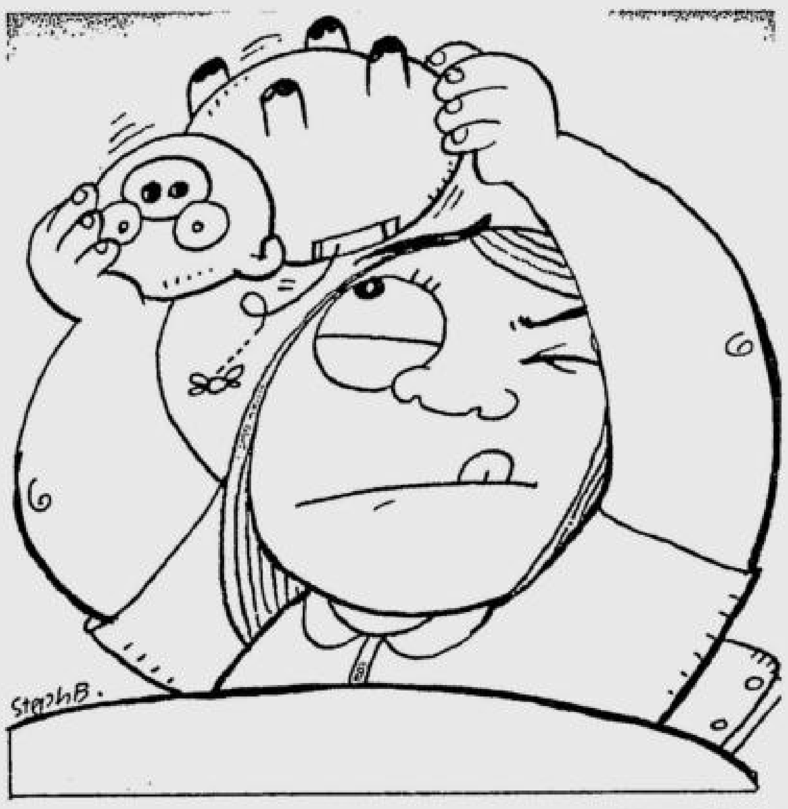

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

9) Always make people sign for documents that you have passed on to them. This serves both as proof that they received the documents and they are now accountable for the information contained in the document.

10) Separate your personal money and whatever money is entrusted to you by the company. It gets easier to track it this way.

I hope that these 10 points will help you avoid these situations in the future. As I read in an email once, "Believe in God... but lock your car."

Good luck and God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chai of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advic @ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax t 892-2902.*)

How do you promote yourself?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

Dear WW: I work hard and do a great job, but it seems like all the people who get ahead here are self-promoters who don't work nearly as hard as I do. I'd rather work than brag.

Not a Walking Commercial

When it comes to self-promotion, I always think of Lucy Amador. She's not a management guru or high-ranking executive. She's a bank robber.

And recently she made a clean getaway with $10,000. The only problem was that she left something behind: a completed loan application bearing her name and address.

Self-promotion didn't work so well for Lucy. But it will work for you. I understand you may find it anathema—many people do. But practically, if you don't promote yourself, who will? Fortunately there are ways to do it that don't seem boastful or self-serving. The tips below should help.

Also check out "The Good News About Careers" by Barbara Moses(Jossey-Bass, 2000).

Do you keep track of your own strengths and accomplishments? Most of us are just trying to survive our to-do lists. Who's got time or energy to compile lists of our accomplishments as well? A way around that is to let others create the list for you. Just keep a file of letters, e-mails, annual reviews, notes from bosses, and other proofs that you've done a good job. Then your accomplishments testimonial will be ready when you need it.

Do you target your information to your audience? Self-promotion is irksome when the promoter is doing what Dr. Moses calls an "ego dump" — listing accomplishments that are irrelevant to the situation.

That's altogether different from reciting accomplishments that are pertinent to the occasion. Citing relevant successes to your boss during a review, to a meeting when you're pressing a point, or to a prospective employer is not only acceptable; it's strategic.

Do you find excuses to stay in contact? Desperate people and the self-absorbed call contacts out of the blue just to tout their latest accomplishment. Smart promoters do it far more gently. They find excuses to "touch base" by sending or calling contacts about things they might find useful: a newspaper article, a bit of information, an item from the Internet. At the same time they briefly fill the person in on something they've been working on.

DIONISIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Do you give others a chance to help? My wife is a writer and her most lucrative project came when I mentioned her career in passing to a person I was working with. Once he knew of her accomplishments he was eager to use her services. There's a lesson there for all of us: the more you keep colleagues, clients, vendors, friends and family informed about what you're doing, the more they can help you find that next opportunity. The key word here is "informed." You don't have to brag about your activities—merely talk about them at appropriate times.

Willie Sutton once said he robbed banks because that's where the money was. You need to practice "appropriate self-promotion" because that's where the money will be for you.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How do you feel about talking up yourself and what you're doing at work?

—Something I love to do, 9%

—I'd rather drink Clorox, 37%

—A necessary evil, 53.9%

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@working wounded.com.)

Easter ...

From page N8

The reason for this non-labeling is that using the word "spirituality" is fraught with so much misunderstanding. Many connect it to religion, which is something that, ironically, causes divisiveness rather than unity. However, in the US and other countries, spirituality in the workplace is a movement, while in its infancy, that is fast gaining ground in organizations seeking to promote "not simply private gain but the common good, " according to Jane Lampman who wrote "A new spirit at work."

Definitions

To understand this phenomenon, let us define the root work of spirituality, which is "spirit." Webster's dictionary defines spirit as "the intelligent, immaterial and immortal part of man; the soul, in distinction from the body in which it resides." Thus, spirituality is generally defined, according to Mike McLoughlin who wrote the paper "Spiritual Formation in the Workplace: God's Spirit at Work," as "the expression of a person's intelligent, immaterial and immortal being." He says, "However spirituality is defined, the essence is that there is more to life than the physical and the material. The 'more' is to be discovered by pursuing non-material things, ideas, concepts and inspirations."

Heart knowledge

Jay A. Conger, author of "Spirit at Work," defines spirituality further. He writes, "In its truest sense, spirituality gives expression to the being that is in us; it has to do with feelings, with the power that comes from within, with knowing our deepest selves and what is sacred to us, with, as Matthew Fox says, 'heart-knowledge.'"

Because human beings are both body and soul intertwined, therefore, we bring our spirituality to our organization, which we expect to provide avenues for expressing our spirituality, for our desire to find purpose in our work, for creating meaningful work, and for achieving self-actualization or fulfillment in doing work we were meant to do on earth.

(*Next week: Closing the "Sunday-Monday gap" Send feedback to* rreyes @inquirer.com.ph.)

JOBMarket
e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

SPIRIT AT WORK

Easter provides hope for transformation at work

By Regina Galang Reyes

EASTER Sunday is a cause for celebration because it symbolizes hope for the resurrection not only of the physical body but also of the spirit. It promises a transformation from an old order to a new order where humanity achieves wholeness in the loving embrace of our Creator. With this flicker of hope, in the midst of the frailties of humankind and the imperfections of the world, we continually strive to progress towards this resurrection of our existence.

In the workplace, this striving is reflected in the way we search for meaning, purpose and value in our work. It is also reflected in our efforts to make our workplaces better places to work and live in. However, in many workplaces, the desired transformation into a better workplace, a better world, may seem like a faint dream. The reality at work are environments and relationships of strife and shadows that make the workplace far from the haven and heaven we long for.

Sunday-Monday gap

While many Filipinos can be considered religious, in the sense that we are devout practitioners of our respective religions, whether Catholic, Christian, Muslim or Buddhist, there is often a dichotomy in our religious beliefs and how we behave in society, especially at work. This is called the "Sunday-Monday gap." How we behave on Sunday (or on the day of your worship) in church or mosque or temple is far removed from how we behave on Monday at work until the end of the workweek.

We observe many behaviors at work that do not reflect our religious beliefs and our spiritual values but many accept as "just part of working." These are unethical decisions, immoral behavior, corrupt practices, dishonesty, lying, cheating and politicking, among a host of other behaviors that go against our religion. A buyer will consider it par for the course to ask for a commission from a supplier. A boss will not think twice before making a pass at a subordinate. A clerk will not provide efficient service unless he is given a "blowout" from a customer. A coworker will cover up for an employee who is stealing from the company because of "friendship." An ambitious management trainee will fabricate stories about his competitor to get a promotion. A manager will sow intrigues against a co-manager with the CEO and other colleagues in order to earn brownie points for more perks. This list is endless. But many at work just accept these as part of surviving in the workplace.

Stopping deterioration

Many values-led leaders in the workplace realize that such a situation can wreck havoc to their organizations, effectively disabling the capacity of their companies to fulfill their objectives. Many inspirational leaders have also come to realize that it is only by infusing values in the workplace, values that are aligned with the employees' own beliefs and values, that the deterioration of moral fiber of the organization can be stopped.

This has given rise to the growing movement in workplaces to infuse values at work. There are company-sponsored masses, company-organized pastoral groups or Bible study groups, training programs and organizational development initiatives that focus on "soft" values rather than "hard" skills, and other activities that nurture the soul. These activities have flourished without awareness from management and employees alike that this is "spirituality at work."

EASTER/N7

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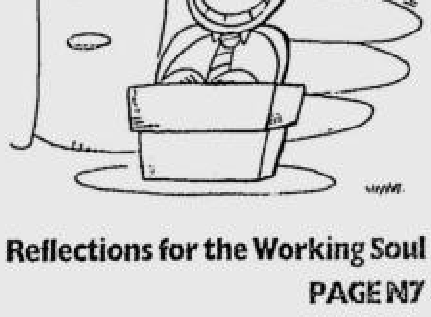
What's inside

My TRABAHO

Barriers to getting your dream job PAGE N6



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JOB Market

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- Senior Operations Manager

Non-Operations
- Communication and Culture Trainer
- Program Specific Trainer
- Quality Evaluators
- Employee Relations Officer

Convergys is the world's largest and the only outsourcing company named by Fortune Magazine as one of America's Most Admired Companies for four consecutive years. Convergys manages revenues in excess of US$2.29 billion and more than 53,000 employees in 53 call centers worldwide. Our centers have earned its 5th Gold MVP Quality Award from Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine for excellence in delivering inbound and outbound, business-to-business, and business-to-consumer integrated customer care service.

at Convergys, there are.
THANKS MOM!
I ♥ U
CONVERGYS
www.convergys.com
An Equal Opportunity Employer

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job Responsibility

Responsible for the over-all operations of a department store to ensure attainment of optimum sales performance and excellent customer service.

Job Qualification

- has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course
- with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity
- with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills
- able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales projections
- has proven track records in sales and service

Branch Locations

Provincial : Cagayan De Oro, Lucena, Baguio, Davao, Dasmariñas
Soon to Open : Lipa, Clark, Mall of Asia, Sta. Rosa, San Lazaro
❖ and our Metro Manila Branches

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart, Sm Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City
or
Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/ SSS Employment History printout and photocopy and original of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

Dasmariñas & Metro Manila Branches

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder.

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

graduate of Interior Design or any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in merchandise purchasing from retail establishment; with exposure in handling merchandising activities such as buying, negotiating with vendors on pricing and product development

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

(For Dasmariñas & Metro Manila Branches)

graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

graduate of Criminology or any 4-year related course; male, must be 5'6" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience; must be physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work extended hours

MERCHANDISE PLANNING AND CONTROL ANALYST

graduate of Economics or Industrial Engineering; with 2 years supervisory experience in sales inventory analysis and development of merchandising or warehousing procedures

DESIGN OFFICER

graduate of Architecture, preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AutoCADD application; with 1 year work experience in site inspection and supervision; proficient in drafting, designing and estimates

DISPLAY OFFICER

graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course; with 1 year experience in visual merchandising and window display in a retail business; proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Coreldraw, Printshop

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year related course; Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

For Metro Manila Branches — SM Shoemart, SM Corporate Office Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park Bay City, Pasay City

For Dasmariñas (Satellite Office) — JRC Bldg. Governor D. Mangubat Avenue, (Formerly Congressional Avenue), Burol Main, Dasmariñas Cavite
Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/ SSS Employment History printout and photocopy and original of Transcript of Records and Diploma

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ACCOUNTANT & OFFICE CLERK

- FEMALE WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
- 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD
- SINGLE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE & COMPUTER LITERATE
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH BOTH ORAL & WRITTEN

CALL 886-08-01 TO 08
LOOK FOR MONET

FOR HIRING IMMEDIATELY

COOKS – specialize in cooking Chinese and Japanese foods

MANAGER/SUPERVISOR – female, 22-30 yrs. old, with experience

CREWS and RIDERS (w/ license) – preferably 18-28 yrs. old, with experience

Please contact 8901429 and look for Christine or submit your resumé with picture at 2727 Pililia corner Kalayaan Sts., Brgy. Valenzuela, Makati City

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ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS**
- **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS**
  (Math, Science, Christian Living, English, Social Studies, T.H.E.)
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS**
- **COMPUTER TEACHERS**
- **GUIDANCE COUNSELORS**
- **PSYCHOMETRICIAN**
- **ACCOUNTING CLERK**

Those interested may apply in person or email their resume, transcript of records and recent ID photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas cor. Faraday Streets, Makati City
844-1934 / 729-7674 / 729-7675/ 844-1615
TELEFAX NO. 815-1601
E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph * stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph • http://www.smws.edu.ph

WANTS YOU!!!

vipertechnologiesinc.

Are you an Accounts Specialist ?

POSITION SUMMARY.

- Responsible for sales leads and generation.
- Develops accounts relationships through initial presentation, liaisons, acceptance of project and continuing accounts management.
- Occasional attendance at regional and national sales meetings and trade shows which may include weekend travel.
- Travel as necessary to cover all locations for named accounts.
- Management of expenses within budget.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Willing to work in a fun yet challenging work environment.
- Strong presentation skills, especially ability to engage managerial-level representatives of accounts.
- Ability to motivate and direct efforts of others.
- Successful sales track record with verifiable earnings.
- Familiarity with advertising industry and/or work experience
  with Internet related software or systems is a plus.
- References required.

Or a Web / Print / New Media Designer ?

POSITION SUMMARY

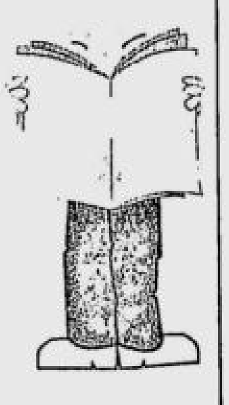
- Will be responsible for creative production through graphic design, web development, multimedia presentations, print layouts, 2D-3D animation, sound usage, music composing, image manipulation, illustration, interface design and other media tools and integration.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Arts or Design or any other related courses, although equivalent experience in the field of computer graphics and web / multimedia development may be considered.
- Must have the ability to think 'out-of-the-box' in dynamic and collaborative environment.
- With at least 2 years experience in Graphic Design, Computer Graphics, Web Development, Multimedia Development
- Must be highly proficient in Photoshop, Flash, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, CorelDraw, and the like
- Knowledge in Director, Lightwave, Premiere & 3D rendering softwares is a plus.
  Experience with photo direction and AVPs is a plus
- Excellent in English Communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Must possess good interpersonal skills, outstanding work ethics and be a strong team player
- Must be dependable, flexible and efficient at handling multiple task under tight deadlines.

VIPER TECHNOLOGIES INC. Unit 1003 Antel Global Corporate Center Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Email: jobs@vipertechonline.com

Where you find the best.



JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

INTERNATIONAL INC

Chemonics International (www.chemonics.com), a US-based international development consulting firm, is currently seeking candidates to work on a USAID-funded five-year Environmental Governance Phase II (Eco-Gov 2) project in the Philippines. The EcoGov 2 Project will collaborate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units (LGUs), and local institutions to sustainably manage forest, coastal-marine and water resources, and promote integrated solid waste management through effective governance.

We are recruiting for the following positions:

Senior Governance/Institutional Development Specialist
Senior Policy Specialist
Natural Resources Management Specialist
Coastal Resources Management Specialist
Urban Environmental Management Specialist
IEC/Advocacy Specialist
Municipal/Micro-Finance Specialist
Gender and Environment Specialist

All positions require 5-10 years working experience in the relevant field in the Philippines and/or the Asia/Pacific region. An advanced degree (Masters or Doctorate level) in a relevant discipline is highly preferred. Applicants must also have strong interpersonal and teamwork skills, and excellent written and oral communication abilities.

Qualified applicants should send a cover letter and a detailed curriculum vitae to ecogov@chemonics.net no later than April 30, 2004.

The Asia Foundation

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous and open Asia Pacific region. Programs in the Philippines have been strengthening good governance and citizen participation since 1954. The Asia Foundation's current programs in the Philippines promote government accountability and improve the public's access to the justice system.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit a Financial Management Assistant for a position based in Manila, Philippines to assist the Foundation's Grants Auditor/ Administrator in grant management. He or she will report directly to the Grants Auditor/ Administrator under the over-all supervision of the Finance & Administration Officer.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Accountancy required, CPA or CPA candidate strongly preferred; experience in financial and administrative tasks may substitute for Certification.

Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2004

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to general@asiafound.org.ph requesting a summary of the job responsibilities for the position.

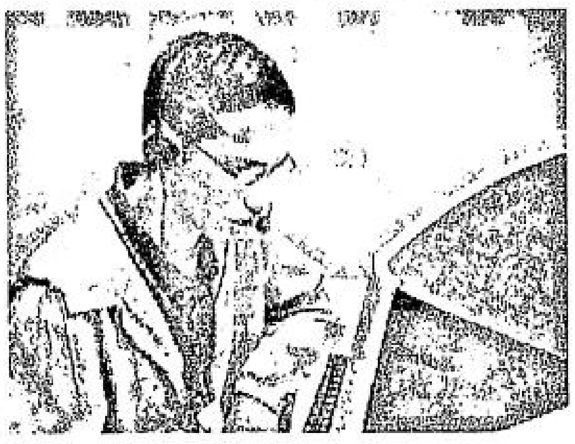
The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 7072
Domestic Airport Post Office
Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attn: Representative
E-mail: general@asiafound.org.ph
Fax: 853-0474
Phone inquiries discouraged

ICT GROUP

ICT GROUP is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.

More than 11,000 ICT GROUP employees at nearly 50 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.

In the Philippines, ICT Group has been noted as one of the fast-growing call centers in Manila giving opportunities to individuals who are comfortable with technology and committed to client satisfaction and total quality.



• Customer Service Representatives •

Responsibilities

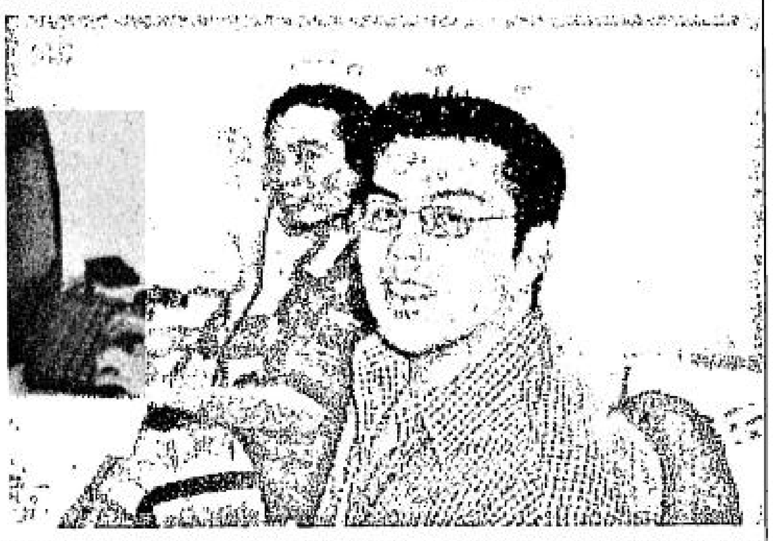
- Acts as front-line contact with customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to problems, queries, and requests of the customer
- Ensures achievement of customer satisfaction

Requirements

- Financial Account
  - Experience in a mortgage or financial account
- Technical Account
  - Experience or knowledge in telecommunications
- Sales Account
  - Experience in sales and telemarketing
- General
  - Strong customer service orientation

Qualifications

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedule
- FRESH GRADUATES / ENTRY-LEVEL applicants are encouraged to apply



YOUR GROWTH IS ON TOP OF OUR LIST...

Interested applicants may send their resume to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or visit us at the 19th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market

MESSAGE SENT

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Promo period is from February 29 - April 24, 2004
- Promo is open to all Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text subscribers.
- 5 multiple choice questions will be published every Sunday in the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- TO JOIN and REGISTER: text TQ JOIN <game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/age and send to 2966 for Globe and Touch Mobile or 3996 for Smart and Talk N Text.
- After the registration the system will send a confirmation message. After which, a participant may answer the succeeding questions using this format: TQ <game code><question number><letter of answer>.
- A confirmation message will be sent after receipt of every answer.
- Each set of questions will have a different game code.
- All questions will be taken from the job placements and ads at the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Each correct answer will earn the participant the corresponding number of raffle entries.
- The number of raffle entries will vary depending on the question answered.
- Once a question in answered correctly, the system will no longer accept any answer for the same question from the same texter
- A participant who gets to answer all five (5) questions of the week correctly will earn an additional ten (10) raffle entries
- Entries will only be valid for a specific week and the other weeks will have a different set of entries
- Answers will be accepted from 12:00 AM Sunday until 11:59 PM of Saturday
- The cost of sending a text message to this promo is P 2.50 for post-paid and pre-paid subscribers
- The prize is P 1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificate from David's Salon.
- There will be four (4) weekly winners and eight (8) raffle draws
- A total of thirty two (32) winners for the duration of the promo.
- Deadline of submission of entries will be at 11:59 PM every Saturday
- Cellphone numbers and names of participants will be electronically drawn every Monday, 11:00 AM at Buy N' Text office at 88 JS Gaisano Bldg., Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City under the supervision of a DTI Representative
- A participant can only win once per draw
- All names of weekly winners will be published in the next issue of JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Prizes will be hand-delivered to the winner
- Prizes for this promo are tax-free.
- Employees of the Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Telecommunications, Inc., Philippine Daily Inquirer and Buy N' Text Corporation and its agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Fifth weekly WINNERS of Job Market Text Quiz

Eduardo S.J. Ong of Pasig City
Christopher Capistrano of Novaliches, QC
Alexander M. Joaquin of Sampaloc, Manila
Ronald R. Dungo of Pasig City

... and get the chance to win gift certificates from David's Salon!

TO JOIN:

First time participants must have to register by answering the question following this format:

TQ JOIN *<game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/ age*

Ex: TQ JOIN A1a Rowie A. Balza/143 Empire St. San Lorenzo Village, Makati City/F/22

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text).

After the registration, you may answer the remaining questions using this format:

TQ *<game code><question number><letter of answer>*

Ex: TQ A1c

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text)

Game Code: T

1. Move to greater heights with one of the country's leading research organizations, join ____.
a. PSRC Research Int'l
b. Asia Research Organization
c. Nielsen Media Research
d. Social Research Organization

2. SYKES. Real People, Real ____.
a. Jobs
b. Opportunities
c. Solutions
d. Success

3. Missing something in your career? Learn more about it at PHILAM FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES' ____ program.
a. 10 Steps to Success
b. Career Orientation
c. Building Your Future
d. Invest Wisely

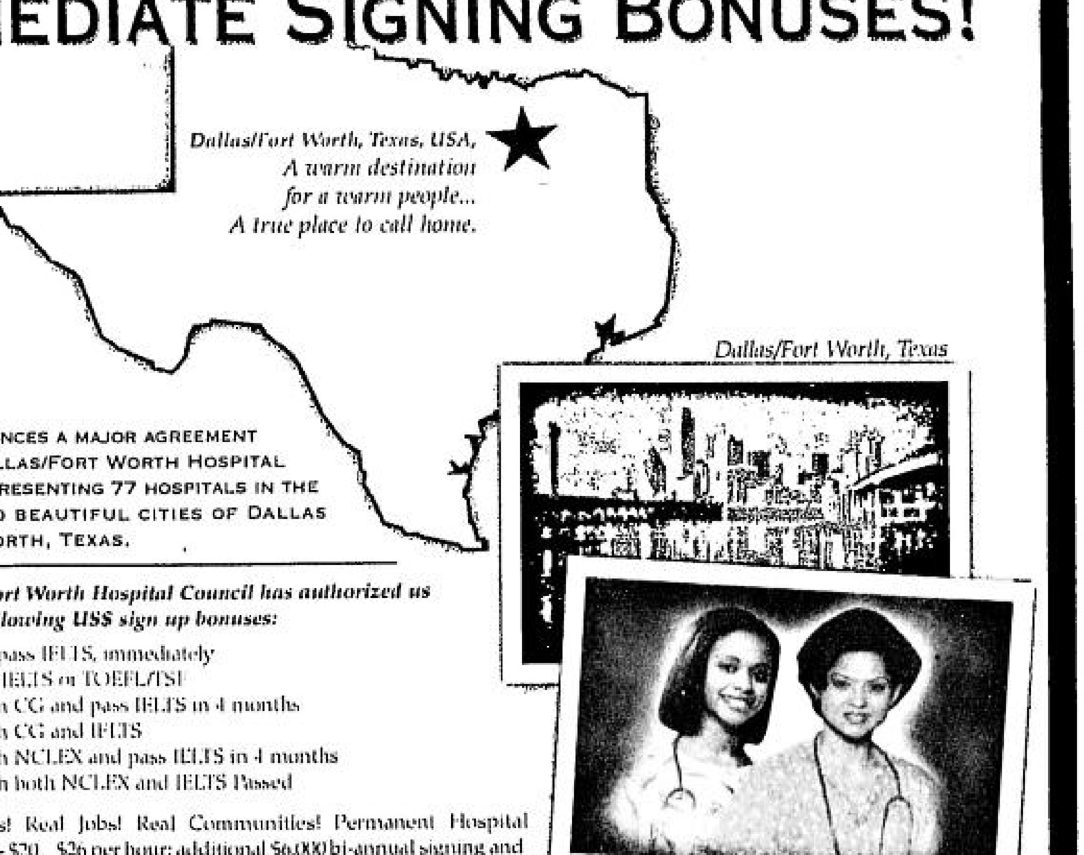
4. ____ provides global customer service solutions for many of the world's leading brand names
a. Teletech
b. Ambergris
c. Contact World
d. Sykes

5. JOB MARKET... Where you find the ____.
a. answer
b. success
c. solution
d. best

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3401 Series of 2003

NURSES

IMMEDIATE SIGNING BONUSES!



HCCA ANNOUNCES A MAJOR AGREEMENT WITH THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH HOSPITAL COUNCIL, REPRESENTING 77 HOSPITALS IN THE EXCITING AND BEAUTIFUL CITIES OF DALLAS AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

The Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council has authorized us to offer the following US$ sign up bonuses:

- **$250** - And pass IELTS, immediately
- **$500** - With IELTS or TOEFL/TSE
- **$1000** - With CG and pass IELTS in 4 months
- **$1500** - With CG and IELTS
- **$2500** - With NCLEX and pass IELTS in 4 months
- **$3000** - With both NCLEX and IELTS Passed

Real Hospitals! Real Jobs! Real Communities! Permanent Hospital Assignments — $20 - $26 per hour; additional $6,000 bi-annual signing and retention bonus; $3000 third year bonus with free round trip ticket home; free use of HCCA's computer laboratory and lending library in Manila; fast processing; and 24/365 presence in Manila and America to assist you. HCCA is your direct employer. No long distance or intermediary relationships required. We are where you are!

IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS & NO PRE-SCREENING EXAMS

125 ADDITIONAL NURSES REQUIRED

To qualify for employment, you must not be under contract with a Philippine recruitment agency. You must be currently employed for six (6) months in a 150 + bed acute care hospital and working in Medical, Surgical, ICU, CCU, Orthopedic and Ob/Gyn units. You must be fluent in English and successfully satisfy HCCA's hiring standards. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any and any results of CGFNS/NCLEX/TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Absolutely, positively, no fees or hidden costs anywhere!

Apply at the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & O, ground floor, left wing, Blas F. Ople Building (formerly POEA) EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 **(Immediate processing and no lines. See Project Officer Ms. Blenda)** or your local POEA office. Applications may also be picked up in Makati at the Enterprise Center, 33rd F Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas. 63(2) 757-1000

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market

Now on-line at
www.inquirer.net

TeleTech™

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech is the leading global provider of customer relationship management solutions and services for companies worldwide. It has more than 25,000 employees in over 60 customer management centers in key locations globally. TeleTech has been in the Philippines since 2001 mainly serving leading North American companies. With its growing base of clients in North America, TeleTech Philippines is now actively recruiting for the following positions:

www.teletech.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Extensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

TEAM LEADERS

- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR

- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS

- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

WORKFORCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS

- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

Sr. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, strong attention to detail
- Sense of urgency is a must
- Minimum 5 years Account management and Client relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader

TRAINER - AMERICAN ACCENT & CULTURE

- Previous Accent Neutralization Training experience essential
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results-focused and a desire to help others succeed

WORKFORCE PLANNING MANAGER

- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment.· TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

PAYROLL SPECIALIST

- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions Focused.
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY

We offer attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience. Kindly indicate in the envelope the position you are applying for and send your application to:

MS. VELDA SAULOG - Recruiting Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

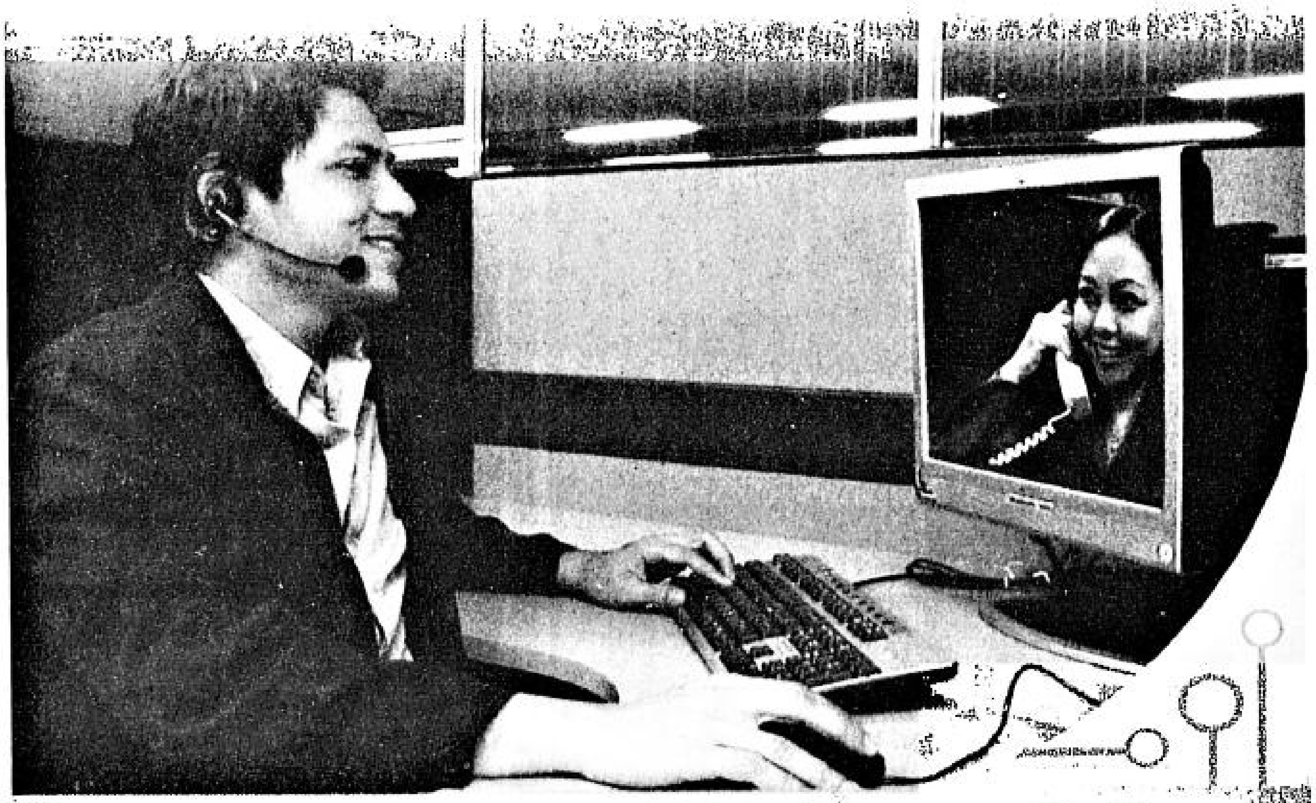
Or thru the following e-mail addresses:

1. Payroll Specialist - hrjobs_ph@teletech.com
2. Operations Manager and Team Leader - OPSjobs_ph@teletech.com
3. Trainer - trainerjobs_ph@teletech.com
4. Quality Assurance Specialists and Supervisor - QA_jobs_ph@teletech.com
5. Workforce Planning Manager & Specialists - OSCjobs_ph@teletech.com
6. Sr Client Relationship Manager - CRMjobs_ph@teletech.com

TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

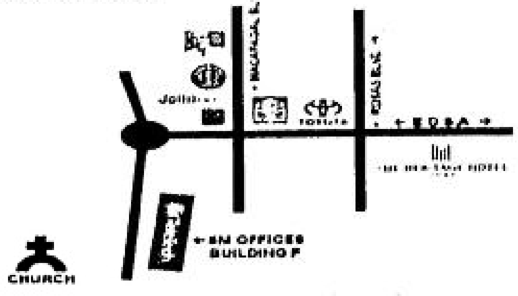
Your parents told you off for spending too much time on the phone. We'll Pay you for it!



To be part of our Customer Service Representative Team
call us at 552-9751up to 55 Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm
You may also send us your resume at OPSJobs_ph@teletech.com

TeleTech, the world leader in the provision of call center solutions is currently undergoing an exciting period of growth in our offices within the Philippines. We're currently on the lookout for new talent to work in our world class call centers. If you are an individual who has:

- Strong command of the English Language
- Customer Service Focused
- Solutions Oriented
- PC Knowledgeable
- Excellent reasoning ability
- Can interpret technical instructions
- Able to deal with concrete variables



call us now!! Dealing with callers from all over the United States you will use your technical support skills to assist customers with their queries. If you are keen to progress your career with a global company, have these skills and are available to work night shift, then give us a call!!

www.teletech.com

JOBZ EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2004

MAY 4 - 6, 2004 Glorietta Activity Center

JOBZ is back!

Back to help more jobseekers and back where we belong.

Join **Inquirer Job Market** as we head off to the **Glorietta Activity Center** on **May 4, 5 & 6, 2004** to stage the year's first **JOBZ Employment Expo**. With more than thirty exhibitors and a multitude of participating companies, we are preparing to host the biggest and most extensive **Employment Expo** to date.

As always, **Job Market** guarantees you benefits no other company can offer - **PREMIUM EXPOSURE**, as we feature your products and services on site, online and on print. **BIG BREAK**, as we offer you fresh pick from new and eager graduates to join the challenging corporate world. And most of all, **GOOD VALUE** for your hard-earned money because with us you get more for paying less!

If you want to get quality respondents and hire valuable employees, then **JOBZ: Employment Expo** is the right investment for your company.

For more Information, please contact any Inquirer Classified Ads branch or email mcabuhat@inquirer.com.ph.

JOBMarket JOB Market AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA

JOB Market

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2004
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e-mail address: jobmarket@inquirer.com.ph
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G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

Where You Find The Best. **P1**

The World's Most Global Hotel Company Needs You

INTERCONTINENTAL.
HOTELS GROUP

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Each year, more than 150 million people find a warm welcome at a hotel or resort bearing one of InterContinental Hotels Group international lodging brands. Around the globe, more than 3,200 hotels flying the flag of one of our brands offer a variety of services, amenities and lodging experiences catering to virtually every travel occasion and guest need.

Ambassador Program Agent

- ✓ Will be coordinating directly with the hotels in assuring excellent customer service is given to the hotel guests and frequent stayer club members of IHG.
- ✓ Must have at least 6 months to 1 year experience with hotel operations.

HR Specialist

- ✓ Support all operation teams concerning Human Resource related policies and personnel issues. Provide assistance to employees and supervisors in solving work-related issues. Ensure the implementation of key Human Resources support processes such as compensation, benefits, employee relations, reporting and leave administration.
- ✓ College Degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, Organizational Development or an equivalent combination of education and work related experience.
- ✓ 3 or more years of business experience in Human Resources environment, systems, terminology and processes.

Trainer

- ✓ Accountable for driving desired behaviors through effective learning methodologies and delivery of training curriculums. Responsible for performing in-house training and provide on-going training services.
- ✓ Candidates must have a Bachelors degree in sales, training development, and/or education or an equivalent combination of education and work related experience.
- ✓ They must have 1-3 years progressive work-related experience in training design and facilitation with demonstrated proficiency and understanding in one or more functions related to the position.

Customer Service Representative

- ✓ Handles all aspect of customer service for the hotel guests and frequent stayer club members of IHG.
- ✓ Open to both fresh graduates and with work experience gained from any customer service related field.

Spanish-Speaking Customer Service Representatives

All applicants must be college graduates and must be willing to work shifting schedules

29/f, Tower II, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
PHLRO.Resumes@ichotelsgroup.com

We will respond only to qualified applicants. Previous applicants need not apply

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CATERPILLAR®

Monark is the sole authorized dealer of **CATERPILLAR**, a US $20B world leader in construction equipment, diesel engines, gensets and forklifts. Monark is by far the industry leader with PhP 2.5B sales and among the Top 500 corporations. We continuously expand in our branches and customer locations nationwide. Be a part of our **High Performing Team.**

PAY-BENEFIT PACKAGE & CAREER TOUGH TO BEAT

We offer CONTINUOUS TRAINING, HOSPITAL & ACCIDENT INSURANCE, RICE BENEFIT, FOREIGN TRAVEL & many others.

ACCOUNT MANAGER For North Luzon

Graduate of graduate of Engineering, ME / EE or any related course, 3-5 yrs experience in selling Heavy Machineries and Generators including Parts sales, With good customer relationship management & communication skills, Proficient in MS Office, willing to be assigned in Pampanga or Nueva Ecija.

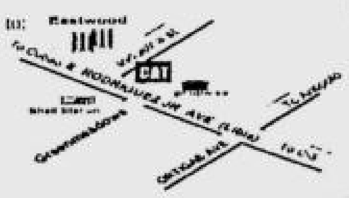
AUTHORIZED MARINE DEALER COORDINATOR

Preferably a graduate of Marine/Mechanical Engineering, with 2 to 3 years experience in selling Marine engine, with substantial technical knowledge in Marine engines, Above average communication & persuasion skills, customer satisfaction driven, proficient in Computer applications.

HR OFFICER

BS Psychology or any related course, At least 5 years experience in Recruitment, Benefits & ER, with 2 years supervisory level, Above average oral & written communication skills, Proficient in MS Office, Can work with less supervision, Organized & a team player.

Send, fax or e-mail resume w/ 2 x 2 photo to:
MONARK EQUIPMENT
150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, QC
email: jobs@emonark.com
Visit us at www.emonark.com
Tel. No. 635-0901 loc 333 or 500
Fax No. 635-2644
Look for Aileh Beneilao



FORMOSA HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORP.

100 SWEI KUAN RD., JEN-WU,
KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, R.O.C.
TEL: +886-7-3711411
FAX: +886-7-3718445

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

TIG WELDER (5) — has experience in welding field of pressure vessel, or boiler. With 3G skill level, below 40 years old

RIGGER (20) — has experience in the job of lifting for construction project, below 40 years old

GENERAL WORKER (25) — must be healthy and must not be color-blind, below 35 years old

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, photo copy of high school diploma, photocopy of passport or authenticated birth certificate and one (1) piece 2 x 2 picture, at Manpower Registry Division, Window I, Ground Floor, BFO Bldg., (formerly POEA Bldg.) Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City. Original copies of credentials must be presented upon registration.

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW 1
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
16 April 2004

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

"Mag-Ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"

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seattle communication services

Seattle Communication Services is engaged in e-commerce sales and customer service for several U.S. based websites. We provide excellent and quality customer service to our customers via voice, e-mail and chat facilities.

We are looking for individuals to take on the challenge of:

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- Confident, self-motivated professional achievers
- Exceptional American style English communication skills both written & spoken
- With strong background in sales and customer service
- Internet & PC savvy
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

DATA INTEGRITY SPECIALISTS

- Works well with numbers and must have a keen eye for details
- Internet savvy; familiarity with eBay online marketplace is an advantage
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work graveyard shifts

WEB DESIGNER

- Highly innovative and has the vision and energy to keep the company in the cutting edge of website and ad design
- Experience in multimedia development & internet projects, preferably with HTML development experience
- Good understanding of web technologies (Flash, Animation)
- Ability to work in a "virtual team", meet deadlines and can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work graveyard shifts

We offer competitive compensation package, fun work environment and absolutely no dress codes!

RISE ABOVE THE REST... GET INTO THE PRIVILEGED ELITE LOOP NOW!

Send a copy of your resumé to veralopez@smoothcorp.com and indicate the best time of day to get in touch with you beside your preferred contact number. You may also visit us at the 3rd Floor, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, 1203 Makati City all Mondays of April from 9am-4pm.

Visit our company website: www.seacom.ph and know more about us!

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

Opportunity knocks but once.

ONE PLANET SPA & FITNESS
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

- 18-30 yrs. Old, Male / Female
- Good moral character, work ethics and pleasing personality
- Good oral communication skills
- SALES experience is a MUST

Interested applicants may submit their resumé to:
103 ELT Bldg., 3/F J. Abad
cor. Lopez Jaena St., San Juan, MM
7232484 / 85

ADB **Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific**
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Legal and Administrative Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to Head, Policy and Recruitment Planning Unit.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for assisting the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer in providing legal support and advice to Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) and Management on institutional and administrative issues; to assist in developing and writing case materials on disciplinary, Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review, Appeals and Administrative Tribunal cases, in consultation with concerned BPMSD Director and staff, and/or concerned divisional director and performing other related administrative duties. The position is specifically responsible for:

Grievance, Appeals and Tribunal Cases

- providing advice on established ADB practices and legal backgrounds to Human Resources Division (BPHR)/BPMSD and concerned divisional manager and assisting in overall coordination of grievances and Administrative Tribunal cases in consultation/coordination with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/Office of the General Counsel (OGC);
- assisting in preparing initial draft of responses from Director, BPHR, concerned divisional director, and Director General, BPMSD, in cases at the Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review and Appeals Committee levels;
- assisting in the preparation of memoranda and other documents which may have legal implications;
- assisting in development and writing of case materials (e. g. memoranda) on employment and human resource related issues, recommending solutions which do not involve confrontation or conflict, usually under considerable time constraints;
- assisting in updating and maintaining the bi-monthly monitor system of all ongoing disciplinary, Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review, Appeals and Tribunal cases in coordination with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/OGC and providing timely feedback to BPMSD;
- representing ADB in cases before the Appeals Committee and courts in coordination with OGC;

Documentation

- creating and maintaining files for staff cases, including the preparation of "fact folders' containing all documentation relevant to specific cases;

Administrative Manual

- assisting in reviewing sections of Administrative Manuals (Administrative Orders and Circulars) that require changes, preparing draft revisions in consultation with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/OGC, updating the manual including the electronic data on Lotus Notes based on approved version, and maintaining documentation relating to any changes;

Manual of Resident Missions (RM)/ Representative Offices (RO):

- assisting in preparation, maintenance, update and issuance of the RM/RO Manual by reviewing draft contents and consolidating inputs/comments from RMs/ROs and concerned ADB department/offices.

Training

- providing inputs in developing training programs on legal issues including appropriate performance feedback for directors and other staff;

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A Bachelor's degree in law, preferably at masters level and member of the Bar;
- At least 5 years relevant labor law experience in a multinational corporation's legal section or law firm or other relevant experience, in working on legal aspects of labor law in an international organization;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English; excellent analytical skills and attention to details; basic computer skills; and
- Ability to manage time to handle heavy workloads involving multiple projects usually under extreme time pressure; ability to work with OGC lawyers and other senior ADB staff.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers and administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N004-054(4)-BPHR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on **http://www adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **16 April 2004.**

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

ADB **Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific**
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Travel Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position directly reports to Head, Travel, OAGS-TR.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for ensuring the efficient processing of travel documents, computation of travel entitlements/costs, formulation and dissemination of travel policies and procedures as well as monitoring of in-plant travel agency.

The position is specifically responsible for:

- ensuring the smooth and efficient processing of business and non-business travel documents by reviewing and certifying the accuracy of Mission Authorization Request (MAR) and Travel Request Authorization (TRA) before endorsing them for final approval;
- making sure all supporting documents are submitted before approval of release of tickets and coordinating with appropriate staff to obtain all necessary documentation and clearances;
- ensuring the cost effectiveness of business and non-business travel arrangements by reviewing itineraries and computed entitlements such as airfare, travel allowances, routing, air cargo/baggage entitlement and other travel-related entitlements, and generating cash advances;
- providing support in enhancing and updating ADB's travel policies and procedures by conducting periodic reviews of such policies and procedures and supervising their dissemination to ADB staff;
- ensuring the smooth and efficient performance of the in-plant travel agency by monitoring the day-to-day operations and performance of the agency under the terms of their contract with ADB, providing support in promptly solving travel problems, and overseeing the timely submission of periodic reports;
- coordinating with in-plant agency officers on any problems encountered as well as reviewing the accuracy of agency invoices before endorsement for final approval; and
- performing other duties as may be assigned by the position's immediate supervisor and/or director.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree;
- at least eight years travel industry experience with five years at supervisory/managerial level;
- in-depth knowledge and understanding of policies, guidelines, procedures, and regulations prevalent in multilateral institutions regarding business and non-business travels;
- working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel and MS Powerpoint;
- expertise in airfare computations and itinerary preparations; and
- comprehensive knowledge of airline and travel agency rules and travel related practices.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers and administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N004-027(3)-OAGS-TR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** to e-mail address **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **16 April 2004**.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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sportshouse

AREA MANAGER

- Male/Female, College Graduate
- At least two years experience in Retail/ Sales Operations
- With excellent communication and leadership skills
- Responsible, Trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- Can handle a minimum of three (3) branches within Metro Manila or Provincial Area

BRANCH SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, College Graduate
- Willing to be assigned in any branch nationwide
- Responsible, Trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- Must possess strong leadership skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, must be Accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- With extensive experience in Accounting works
- Possess good working attitude

You may send your resumé
with 2x2 picture at:

19 Pecton Bldg.,
Gilmore Avenue, New Manila,
Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 721-2480 / 721-5553
E-mail: hrd@sportshouse.com.ph

Hotel PONTEFINO
BATANGAS CITY

We are the newest premiere business hotel in Batangas City.
We have career opportunities for the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGERS

(Batangas-Based/Manila-based)

- Sales / marketing-oriented; preferably with background in events planning and coordination.
- Capable of executing projects
- Young, aggressive, personable, stylish, creative, enjoys outdoors
- Highly organized
- Male or female; below 40 years old

SALES EXECUTIVE

(Manila-based)

- With a marketing or business-related degree.
- Has hotel sales experience; knows field work; with established network of clients.
- Eloquent; highly-personable; preferably female.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

(Manila-based)

- With a marketing or business-related degree
- Has hotel marketing experience; loves field work
- Crative; focused
- Male or female; not more than 30 years old

FRONT OFFICE AGENTS

(Batangas-based)

- Adept a handling guest inquiries; fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Service oriented; goes an extra mile to pamper the guests.
- With excellent people and communication skills.
- Preferably with a valid driver's license.
- Male; at least 5'8" tall; not more than 28 years old.

Interested applicants can bring or send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:

Human Resource Department
Hotel Pontefino
Bgy. Gulod, Labac, Batangas City

or

HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor will be part of the editorial team and handling technical editorial operations and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communiction, or English with at least 5 years of editorial experience in a supervisory capacity. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to detail. Exposure to international media content can be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package , business travel opportunities and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested individuals should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Copy Editor

To edit articles in an international electronic trade journal in print and online versions. Preferably a Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Mass Communication/Journalism. Must have good English communication skills and a minimum of 2 years work experience as an engineer or technical writer with some exposure to the Internet is essential.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

WE NEED 300 SALES CONSULTANTS FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!!

SALES CONSULTANTS

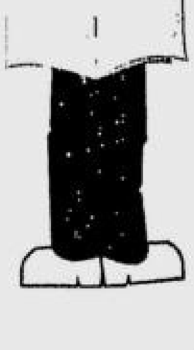
- Male/Female, 22- 40 yrs old, college graduates
- With Sales & Marketing experience
- Good communication skills, Personable
- Willing to do field work, Out-going & Productive

Qualified Candidates will enjoy a basic pay of P10,000/Month plus P2,500 Allowances and commissions
Due to the urgency of the said requirement,
Applicants may personally submit their resume w/ picture & NBI Clearance starting on April 12, 2004 at

International
Personnel Consultants

19th Floor, Unit 1903, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel no. 687 2247/Fax No 687-2246
apply online at: www pinoyhotjobs.com.ph ,
Previous applicants need not apply.

The best companies need the best people.



JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Join our team!

We are a dynamic Cebu-based retailer whose ideal is Great Customer Service. We are now branching out to Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila. Enthusiastic, driven, creative, individuals, coupled with good "people skills" are needed for the following positions:

METRO
G·A·I·S·A·N·O

OPERATIONS

STORE MANAGERS
- Bachelor's degree graduate
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale retail or food chain industry
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

FAST FOOD MANAGERS
- Graduate of Business course preferred
- Minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from food chain industry
- Team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

STORE SUPERVISORS
- Graduate of Business course preferred
- Minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from customer/service industry
- Team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

ADS & PROMOTIONS OFFICERS
- Female, Mass Communications graduate
- Preferably with experience in same capacity or in public relations work
- Personable, articulate and outgoing

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS
- Marketing major graduate or its related field
- Preferably with relevant work experience
- Personable and outgoing
- Ability to profitably relate with customers

PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY CLERKS
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- BS Pharmacy graduate (license holder for Pharmacist)
- Alert, with proficiency in oral communication

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
- Male, licensed Mechanical Engineer
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity
- Substantial exposure in preventive & corrective maintenance of mechanical equipment from medium to large scale industry
- Strong leadership, organization and planning skills

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- Male, licensed Electrical Engineer
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity
- Well-versed in industrial wiring and motor control
- Strong leadership, organization and planning skills

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
- BS Computer Science graduate
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity
- Solid background in systems programming using As400, Novell, UNIX, etc.

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

JUNIOR AUDITORS
- BS Accountancy graduate with above average scholastic records, preferably CPA
- Analytical, organized and team player
- Proficiency in oral and written communication

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Female, BS Accountancy graduate with above average scholastic records
- Minimum of 1 year work experience preferred
- Hardworking, with positive attitude and willingness to work long hours

VISUAL ARTISTS
- Fine Arts graduate major in Interior Design
- Minimum of 1 year work experience in same capacity
- Proficiency in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator and other graphic software applications

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS
- Male, Computer Science/Engineering graduate
- Minimum of 2 years work experience in maintenance & troubleshooting of PCs
- Systematic and results-oriented

ELECTRICAL & RAC TECHNICIANS
- Electrical/Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning course graduate
- Minimum of 1 year exposure in basic electrical works and handling of showcase chillers, freezers and centralized air-conditioning

GENSET OPERATORS
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or related vocational course
- Technical knowledge and hands-on experience in operating diesel engines with more than 1000hp

Requirements:
◆ application letter ◆ comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture ◆ photocopy of Transcript of Records

Please direct applications to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
METRO MARKET MARKET
Mabini St. (between McKinley Parkway & C5 Road)
Fort Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
FAX #: (02) 815-9355

or

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
METRO GAISANO BUYING OFFICE
658 Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila
FAX #: (02) 734-9501

email add: mgaisano@mozcom.com

Igedo Fashions, Inc.
Engaged in the retail operations of
Liz Claiborne and **Boss Hugo Boss** are in need of

Female Sales Associates

with the following qualifications:

- College degree preferred but not a must
- What are musts?
  - Must be between 21 to 26 years old
  - at least two years of experience in fashion or prime-brand retail operation
  - good communication, interpersonal and computational skills
  - good sense of order, discipline and responsibility
  - openness to learn and to contribute to the continuous improvement process

Please bring your resumé with a 2x2 picture to the Liz Claiborne store, Level 3, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST/ LIAISON OFFICER

For a fast growing food manufacturer in Bulacan

- Consultancy or part-time basis only
- Develop ways to improve process and quality of products
- Prepare requirements and liaise with government agencies such as BFAD for product registration
- Experience in food sector (condiments processing) a definite advantage

Send resumé with photo and contact numbers to amethyst7707@yahoo.com or mail to:

Box No. 200
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F, Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City 1550

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Now on its 23rd year

THEME & SCHEME MARKETING, INC.

Urgently needs dynamic people for its expansion program

VICE-PRESIDENT for OPERATIONS
- ✓ College graduate preferably in Business, Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Communication, Economics
- ✓ With working experience in a sales promotions agency or advertising agency with fast-moving consumer goods companies as clients; a sales experience would be most helpful
- ✓ With strong planning/organizing, communication and inter-personal skills
- ✓ Has leadership experience in managing people
- ✓ Has initiative and practical creativity
- ✓ Not more than 40 years old

AREA DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS
- ✓ Not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Fluent in English (oral & written)
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ With analytical and presentation skills
- ✓ Has the ability to lead a very dynamic group
- ✓ Creative, smart and hard-working
- ✓ Knowledge in consumer promotions/marketing/ sales
- ✓ College graduate

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT
- ✓ Female not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Graduate (Behavioral Science, BS Psychology, Industrial Psychology)
- ✓ Knowledgeable in all facets of HR (compensation, training, recruitment, employee relations, organizational development)

COMPUTER OPERATORS / ENCODERS
- ✓ Graduate of (BS Computer Science or related course)
- ✓ Knowledgeable in MS Office
- ✓ Fast and efficient typing skills

BRANCH MANAGERS
- ✓ College graduate preferably in Business, Marketing, Industrial Eng'r., Communication, Economics
- ✓ With working experience in a sales promotions agency or advertising agency with fast-moving consumer goods companies as clients; a sales experience would be most helpful
- ✓ Has the potential to become a VP for Operations someday
- ✓ Confident, results-oriented and resourceful
- ✓ Possess good communication and inter-personal skills
- ✓ Proactive, able to work under pressure
- ✓ Team player
- ✓ Not more than 40 years old

CREATIVE ARTISTS / VISUALIZERS
- ✓ Must possess a diploma or degree in fine arts, graphics design or equivalent course
- ✓ Adept with designing software including Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop / Macromedia FLASH
- ✓ Ability to be creative / independent
- ✓ Ability to handle multi tasks within datelines
- ✓ Good interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills
- ✓ At least 1-2 years experience is preferred but fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- ✓ BS Accountancy Graduate
- ✓ Legible handwriting
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ At least 1-2 years experience preferred but fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- ✓ Not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Fluent in English (oral & written)
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ With analytical and presentation skills
- ✓ Has the ability to lead a very dynamic group
- ✓ Creative, smart and hard-working
- ✓ Knowledge in consumer promotions/marketing/ sales
- ✓ College Graduate (Business Management, Commerce, Marketing, Economics, Accounting)

PERSONNEL SUPERVISORS
- ✓ Female not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Graduate (Behavioral Science, BS Psychology, Industrial Psychology)
- ✓ Have at least 2 years experience in HR / Admin.
- ✓ Knowledgeable in all facets of HR (compensation, training, recruitment, employee relations, organizational development)

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Male not more than 30 years old
- ✓ With at least 1 year experience in warehousing operations
- ✓ Extensive experience in warehouse management / inventory system

APPLY IN PERSON

Valle Verde Country Club, Rosario Room (Capt. Javier Street, Pasig City beside ULTRA Complex)
From 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, April 12-14, 2004

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:

Photocopy of your SSS or E6 ID, Tax Identification Number, Current NBI Clearance / Police Clearance, Clearance & Certificate of Employment from previous employer, (2) 2x2 colored picture (with white background) and 1x1 ID Picture.

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Opportunity knocks but once.

If only there were **cool** things
to do this **hot** summer...

April **14-16**, 2004 and April **19-20**, 2004
37/F, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center

WORLD CITI MEDICAL CENTER
"The Country's First Medical Hotel"

The country's first medical hotel is in need of highly qualified and competitive:

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

- Graduate of BS Rad. Tech., with license
- 23-30 years of age
- Preferably with relevant experience
- Willing to undergo training

FRONT DESK OFFICER

- Any four-year course
- 22-30 years of age, Single
- With at least 1 year of experience
- With above average written and oral communication skills

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

- Graduate of BSCE or BSCS
- 23-30 years old, preferably Female
- With at least two years of experience as programmer

Please apply personally or e-mail jendelet01@yahoo.com
960 AURORA BOULEVARD, QUEZON CITY 1100
TEL. NO. 913-8380/438-4580

GLOBAL GOLF & LEISURE INC.

A fast-growing Korean company involved in golf tours catering to Korean nationals is urgently looking for qualified candidates for the positions of:

GENERAL MANAGER
MANAGER

Loves dealing and working with people, has previous experience in hotels, golf country clubs, travel companies or other big companies.

SECRETARY
OFFICE CLERKS
ACCOUNTANT
DRIVER

Please call for interview appointment at **895-8141** or at **0920-6011123**

★JOB OPENING!!!★

OFFICE STAFF & MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Male/Female, Single/Married, College graduate of any course, w/ or w/o experience. Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.

Hiring will be on Monday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, April 12 to 17, 2004

APPLY AT:
Suite 808, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)

Note: Qualified applicants will start immediately.
Look for Mr. Noel Isidro for interview
"attach this ad to your resumé"

The best companies need the best people.

visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

Philam Savings Bank and AIG Credit Card Company Phils., Inc.,

member companies of the CONSUMER FINANCE GROUP (CFG) of AIG, the leading US – based international insurance organization and the PHILAM GROUP invite the most promising graduates of 2004 to be part of these dynamic organizations.

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

Sales Officers (Code: SO)

- Must have experience in acquiring valued deposit/term accounts by offering various bank products and services
- Preference is for candidates with existing portfolio and network of bank clients

Customer Service Representatives (Code: CSR)
Universal Tellers (Code: UT)
Loans Processing Staff (Code: LPS)
Collection Staff (Code: CS)

- These positions are open to fresh graduates with pleasant disposition, customer service orientation and well developed communication and interpersonal skills.
- Must be computer literate.

Computer Operator (Code: CO)

- Must be a graduate of Computer Science or any related computer course
- Experience in data center operations is an advantage

Disbursement Assistant (Code: DA)

- Must be an Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Preferably with experience in disbursement and general accounting work
- Must have keen sense for details & willing to work long hours
- Must be computer literate

AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.

Data Center Officer (Code: DCO)

- Must have at least 1 year work experience in data center operation
- Knowledgeable in MS Office software
- Preferably with experience in LAN/WAN network, PC and printer operation
- Graduate of any computer related course

Customer Service Associates (Code: CSA)
Telemarketing Associates (Code: TMA)
Collection Associates (Code: CA)
Credit Associates (Code: CRA)

- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With strong customer service and sales & marketing orientation
- Exposure in a call center industry would be an advantage
- Applicants for CSA must be willing to adapt to a flexible work schedule
- Must be computer literate

Accounting Assistants (Code: AA)

- Must be an Accounting graduate
- Preferably with experience in general accounting work
- Must have keen sense for details & willing to work long hours
- Must be computer literate

Interested applicants are advised to bring or send their resume, transcript of records and 2X2 photos to:

For Bank positions:
Code: ________
Human Resources Division
2/F Philam Building, dela Rosa corner
Palanca Streets, Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229
e-mail: PSB_Recruitment@aig.com

For Credit Card positions:
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Human Resources Division
16/F San Miguel Properties Center
St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas,
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E-mail :grace @elitegarments.com

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

MSF-Switzerland
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1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, City of Manila 1007
Tel. (+632) 404 20 84 / Fax (+632) 526 42 38
msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, accredited by the Department of Health whose objective is to bring medical aid to population in crisis, is now in need of staff for the Street Children Project in Manila:

(1) SOCIAL WORKER

Qualifications:

- Social Worker with some para legal experience
- Knowledge in children's laws, rights and responsibilities is an advantage
- Hardworking and committed to the children's cause of protecting children's rights
- Experience with children required
- Experience with street children is an advantage
- Minimum one year of experience
- Knowledge in family intervention, family counseling techniques and para-legal training
- Experience in NGO setting an advantage
- Fluent in English & Tagalog
- Willing to work on flexible time
- Computer skills (MS Office), especially word and excel

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2x2 photo, copy of diploma and transcript of records must be mailed and addressed to:

MS. MILENA OSORIO
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
E-mail msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

(Only short listed candidates will be notified)
(Interviews will start from 15th of April 2004)

Deadline for Submission: April 30, 2004

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Direct Line: 551-7530

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

MSF-Switzerland
(Street Children Project)
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Tel. (+632) 404 20 84 / Fax (+632) 526 42 38
msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, accredited by the Department of Health (DOH), whose objective is to bring medical aid to population in crisis, is now in need of staff for the Street Children Project in Manila:

TWO (2) REGISTERED NURSE

Qualifications:

- Experience in:
  - Implementation of street-based and/or community-based health strategies with strong background on reproductive health and substance abuse
  - Providing medical consultation and management, health education and counseling
  - Working with children and adolescents
  - Collaborating with government hospitals and health centers for medical referral and networking
- Knowledge in participatory strategies
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relation skills
- Hardworking and committed to the cause of protecting children's rights
- Research experience, an advantage
- Can work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative
- Exposure to non-governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting
- Computer skills (MS Office), especially word and excel

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents must be mailed and addressed to:

MS. MILENA OSORIO
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
E-mail: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

(Only short listed candidates will be notified)
(Interviews will start from 15th of April 2004)

Deadline for Submission: April 30, 2004

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- Adept with data, excellent writing and communication skills.

B. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing. Fresh Graduates are welcome.
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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
April 11, 2004

It's Great to Be Borgy

What's it like to be heir to the Marcos name, born to privilege and prejudice and a constant subject of speculation? Image model and occasional actor Borgy Marcos Manotoc speaks of the perks and pressures of being who he is

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

IMEE Marcos can be faulted for a lot of things, but you have to concede that she did something right in raising eldest son Borgy.

Fernando Martin Marcos Manotoc comes to the pictorial five minutes early, nibbling on unsalted crackers and trailing a lone bodyguard that he confides he has tried to lose several times in the past. "But he's good, this guy; I just can't get away," he grins at the taciturn figure. Declining offers of a changing room and more privacy, he peels off, right by the poolside, the casual tee and grungy walking shorts that define his generation and follows the photographer's instructions without fuss—pouting, clowning and mugging for the camera like the professional model that he is.

After the shoot and still dripping, Borgy pulls on his shorts, again by the poolside, and waves away expressions of alarm about his catching a cold in his wet things. "I didn't bring a change of clothes," shrugs this former Bench endorser. In fact, he would say later, he's not really into clothes and doesn't spend on them. "Well, I get them free," he says. "Just one of the perks of the business."

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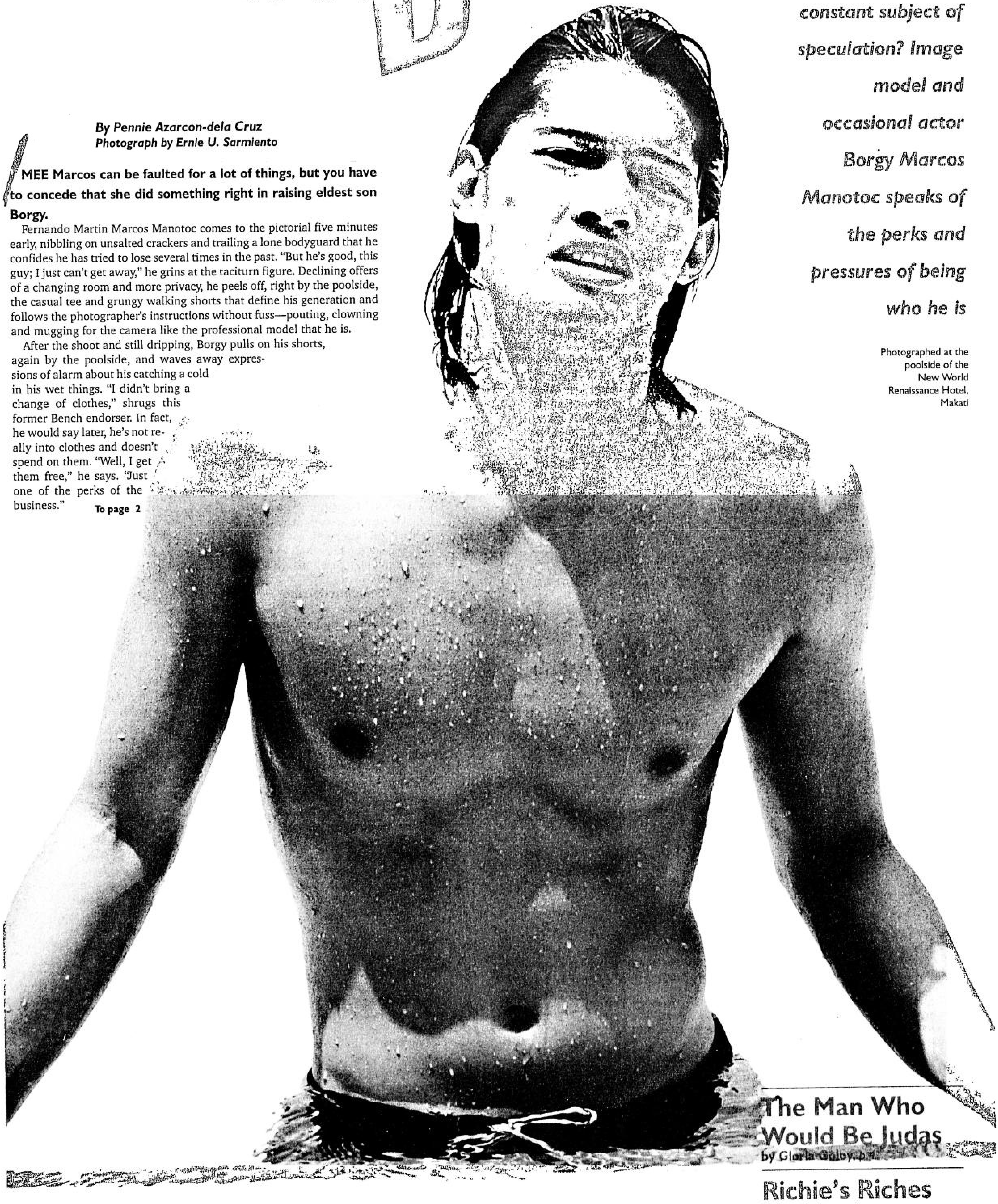

Photographed at the poolside of the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati

The Man Who Would Be Judas
by Gloria Goloy, p.4

Richie's Riches
by Joy Rojas, p.4

The Ha Ha Handyman
by Ruel S. De Vera, p.6

Borgy ...from page 1

'Kuya' Borgy adores mom Imee, and is protective of brother Michael

PDI PHOTO

And some would say, of his name. Because 18 years after the Marcoses were chased away by the EDSA uprising, Borgy Marcos Manotoc has yet to escape instant identification with his closest kin. There is, after all, the uncanny resemblance to his mom, Rep. Imee Marcos of Ilocos, from the tawny skin to the strong thrusting chin.

But there is little of the defiance that has put assorted relatives of his in direct collision path with the PCGG and other detractors of martial law. Being exiled to Hawaii with the Marcoses at 3 and living in different countries that would accept them have fortunately spared Borgy from developing the cynicism and paranoia of the persecuted. Absent too is the sense of entitlement that would have scions of other political families expecting obeisance and adulation from hangers-on.

No great shakes

Being Borgy, he says, is no great shakes. "I don't even think about it, I just try to be who I am in public." Of course, he adds, people with him worry that he might get mobbed. "But I take it all in context. It has nothing to do with me but with the modelling business."

There are pressures, to be sure. When he was younger and won a tennis championship in his age level in school, the press started comparing him to Swedish tennis legend Bjorn Borg, after whom he was nicknamed. "Fortunately, I'm not really into sports," says this son of golfer and sportsman Tommy Manotoc.

And then there's the Marcos name. "I try not to let it affect me," says Borgy of the controversies and countless lawsuits often lumped with his elders' name. "People are entitled to their own opinions, both positive and negative."

He doesn't see his infamous relatives as political or historical figures at all, he adds. "For me, they're just my *lolo* and *lola* and I relate to them as a grandson. I only became conscious of how people look at them differently when I was at the Ateneo because there, they talked about it a lot. It was kinda weird. I can't blame people here because they were exposed to (martial law), but I don't bother to change their opinion."

More than just the woman with the fantastic shoe collection, Imelda Marcos "is a doting *lola* who spoils us with wonderful hedonistic values," says Borgy. "She plays her role as grandmother to the hilt and treats us all the time." Out of camera range, Imelda "can be funny," he adds. "She just sits there at the dinner table telling stories that never end. Her storytelling can stretch from say, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m."

But yes, he's been occasionally burdened with the Marcos name, Borgy admits. "There's the security to worry about, and the kidnappings, that's why I have a bodyguard. I worry about my family and brothers all the time."

Still, the name has proven to be a blessing on the whole, he says. "I'm not out of work, we didn't go hungry and I got a good education. The negative publicity is a small price to pay for all that."

Being Imee's son is definitely a boon, he adds. In fact, he came home from New York in December to campaign for her until she changed her mind. Says Borgy: "I'm kinda relieved she's not running. Politics as it is now is kinda unattractive to me. Like showbiz, it's a popularity contest." He's gone campaigning with her before "and the schedule was crazy but I don't mind because I was doing it to help Mom. Now that she's out of the race, she'd have more time for us."

Non-traditional mom

Although he recalls his mother washing his mouth with detergent for uttering cuss words when he was a boy, Borgy denies that Imee rules with an iron fist. "She lets us know there are rules, and abides by them." She is, he describes, "a very non-traditional mom. She calls me *Kuya* and I try to act like one to my two younger brothers Michael and Matt, especially when my parents split up." She is his idol, says Borgy. "Mom is an unbelievable woman. It's amazing how she handled herself through the difficult times. But of course, she has us three kids to take it out on," he deadpans.

Family, says Borgy, has been the biggest influence in his life. "I think my parents did a pretty good job of raising us. We grew up on the values of honesty and trust. And laughter. Humor keeps us going." In fact, it is his greatest achievement, he says. "My relationship with my family keeps me grounded, especially my brothers, who give me a lot of grief."

Indeed, as the model of the moment whose face and bod have graced countless magazine covers, billboards, the TV screen and print ads, it is so easy for a guy who just turned 21 (last April 9) to lose all perspective and believe his own press releases.

But while modeling is something he definitely enjoys "because I meet people and gets lots of opportunities to travel," Borgy seems to know how ephemeral fame can be. "Business is cutthroat. You have to play the game well and follow the rules. Still, I hope to be able to do this as long as I can."

Genuine Ilocano

To the contention that he doesn't really need to work that hard, Borgy does a double take. "Are you kidding? I mean, it's bad enough that my mom is still supporting me; I'd be too embarrassed to take money from her now." In New York, where he's now based, he goes to school in the morning and screens records for release for a small recording label in the afternoon until evening to earn some cash. "You can just imagine how much I enjoy my weekends," he chuckles.

Fiscal responsibility is something that this firstborn seems to take seriously. In one interview, mom Imee Marcos described Borgy as a "G.I." for Genuine Ilocano, to twit him for his tightwad ways. "He is independently wealthy," she added. "In fact, he'd often wind up with more money at night than the allowance I gave him in the morning."

Blame it on the guy's very focused interest. "I spend my money on what's important to me and that's music. I splurge on CDs, not clothes." Now if he had real money, Borgy says he'd spring for an iPod, one of his dream acquisitions. Another is a real apartment in New York "because rent is ridiculous! Someday I might have to rob a bank, but I'm getting my own place..."

Traveling is another luxury he'd scrimp for. "New York is my favorite destination. It's motivating just walking around this great city. You don't get stuck, you're always moving, always going." He'll be back in New York soon, says Borgy, to pursue advertising and public relations at New York University, "because it's a good combination of what I'm interested in, which is marketing."

He's not exactly a diligent student, he says, describing himself more as "a lazy, undisciplined, lethargic guy who plays a lot of sports, likes theater and plays the sax." But generally, adds Borgy, he has a great time in school, even at the Ateneo where he had "a huge culture shock" because of the language. "We speak English at home, so I felt so out of place at the Ateneo where people spoke Filipino. I couldn't believe it! I got an F and I've never gotten one before. It was so weird. Teachers would call on you and you have to answer in Filipino. All my classmates were laughing at me, but the teachers helped me out." He left after a year.

Language is something he has to work on, writes TV-movie critic Nestor Torre, who reviewed Borgy's recent guesting on a TV sitcom. Torre, who says "(his) acting revealed an impish quality that was refreshing" also notes his other plus factors: "the good looks, great body and right thespic genes: His mother was a good stage actress in the '70s."

No to acting

But he isn't about to pursue a career in entertainment, says Borgy, whose half brother TJ Manotoc, is a TV host and sportscaster. "Acting is not for me," he says, adding that he'd rather model. "Modeling is a stepping stone to bigger things." It is, at the moment, a means to becoming more independent, a trait he developed while living, at various times, in Portugal, Morocco and Singapore.

"Life here is sheer luxury, with the househelp, the drivers, and so on," he says. "Having people following me around makes me feel uncomfortable. It was the biggest adjustment I had to make when I came home because abroad, I was so used to fending for myself—doing my own laundry, cooking, taking the subway."

As a local celebrity who has been known to squire some of the prettiest girls around (including VJ and commercial model Sarah Meier), Borgy gets his share of nosy questions. But, he says, rolling his eyes, "As much as the public likes to think it is, it's not that colorful," he says of his love life. "I have no girlfriend at the moment. I'm not ready for a serious relationship right now. Why start something you can't follow through?"

He has no ideal girl either, he says when pressed. "I don't really have a type, but I like a girl I can get along and be comfy with. Someone who's not too dependent on her boyfriend, has her own goals and career, and a good sense of humor to go with mine." Former girlfriend Meier once described Borgy as "goofy, very Jim Carrey!"

He's looking for someone like the women in his family, adds Borgy. "They're very independent, enlightened women who don't need the security of a man."

He would like to meet anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela of South Africa ("because you can learn a million things from him"). He also looks up to Leonardo Da Vinci. "I used to paint a lot in high school, just to relax. I do a lot of abstracts, whatever comes to mind."

At the moment, life for Borgy is a blur of appointments, parties, events, modeling jobs and interviews. "I feel like there's so much to do and I still have far to go so I have to rush things," he says. There's that summer school in New York come June, the Olympics in Athens in August, the marketing firm he's planning to put up...

Some would say he seems bent on redeeming his name—and so far, Borgy's been doing a good job. Q

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EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Families are invited to celebrate Easter Sunday at the New World Renaissance Hotel with a choice of delicious buffet lunches and fun-filled activities. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Grand Ballroom at 2 p.m. where kids can also enjoy magic tricks, face painting and the Egg Painting Contest. For details, call 811-6888. *For more of This Week, see page 7.*

Larong Bata

Sa South Super Highway
saglit na sumilip ang araw sa kaliwa
kakaibang halo ng ginto at dugo
sa kabila, asul ng payapang lawa.

Gising ka na kaya ngunit nakahiga
sa iyong kubo, habang napahahaplos
sa araw ang iyong pisngi, nananatiling
nakasara ang gising mong mata?

Katulad ng laro natin noong tayo'y bata pa
maaari kasing pumikit at hating
dumilat sa loob ng talukap ng mata.

Kung ika'y nakapikit, gabi ang paligid
kung kaunti kang nakadilat sa loob
nasa pusod ka ng hinog na dalandan—

Kasing kulay nitong kalawakan ngayong umaga.

Noong umalis ako sa katimugan
muli kong natagpuan itong larong
muntik nang malimutan.

Sa bundok, ang laro ng pagpikit ay sining ng pag-umit
ng pahinga nang hindi napagagapos sa lubid ng himbing
anumang oras kailanganing magising, agad makatatalon
tatakbo, gugulong, dadapa sa damo at pipisil ng gatilyo.

Ang bawat pagpikit ay gabi
bawat pagtulog,
pagpikit ng kalahati.

Alam kong gising ka na ngayon,
gusto kong isiping
nakatingala ka rin sa bukang-liwayway.

Nakalimot man
sa dating laro sa mata
maaari mo pa ring makita

Ang mahiwagang kulay
ng pusod ng dalandan
ang ginto at dugo sa kalawakan—

Habang sabay tayong nakadilat
habang nakasarado pa ang talukap
sa mata ng mundo.

Noel R. del Prado

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Pain is no joke. Anyone who has experienced the extreme pain associated with toothaches, migraines, and dysmenorrhea can attest to that.

Dealing with pain can be a complicated and confusing matter. So knowing as much as you can about the kind of pain you're experiencing will help a great deal.

Toothache

A toothache is usually the result of a cavity formed by the bacteria that cause tooth decay (known medically as dental caries). Cleaning out and filling the cavity brings a quick end to the pain. Without this treatment, however, the pain is likely to get worse.

> The more you know about your pain, the more power you have to control it.

The pain can be dull, sharp, aching, burning, or throbbing. It may come and go, and may affect the whole mouth or only one part. Hot or cold foods and biting and chewing may increase the pain.

- Until you can see a dentist, use over-the-counter medications such as Dolfenal 250 (Mefenamic Acid) to ease the pain.
- You may get relief by putting an ice pack on your jaw, but putting heat on it may make the toothache worse.
- To avoid getting another toothache, see a dentist for check-ups every six months, brush your teeth twice a day, and floss once a day.

Migraine

There are many factors that cause migraines. Certain foods, drinks, or additives can trigger a migraine attack. Going without food for too long can also have the same effect. So if you get migraines often, it's best to avoid cheese, chocolate, oranges, red wine, and eat regular meals.

Other factors that have been known to trigger migraine attacks are smoking, stress, over- excitement, bad posture, and sleep disturbance. Environmental factors such as pollution and bad lighting can affect you as well. Removing all migraine-inducing elements from your daily lifestyle will greatly reduce the chances of getting one.

Dysmenorrhea

Dysmenorrhea affects women during their menstrual period and often includes one or more of such symptoms as mild to severe cramping in the lower abdomen, backache pain and pulling on the inside of the thighs, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, fainting, or headache.

There are many remedies that may make your periods more comfortable. Aside from pain medication, the application of a hot water bottle or a heating pad to the abdomen during the first few hours of your period may provide some relief. Adequate rest can also be helpful. You should pursue normal activities if possible, including usual types of physical exercise.

The more you know about your pain, the more power you have to control it. And if you experience these pains frequently, it's best to take Dolfenal 250. It's one of the most prescribed brands of Mefenamic Acid and is recommended for the extreme pain of toothaches, migraines or dysmenorrhea. Distributed by Therapharma, Inc., Dolfenal 250 is available in all drugstores (including Mercury Drugstore) nationwide.

*If symptoms persist, consult your Doctor.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

For toothache, migraine, and dysmenorrhea

"Laughter is not always the best medicine."

Ngayon, may sagot na sa sobrang sakit na tulad ng toothache, migraine at dysmenorrhea. Dolfenal 250 (Mefenamic Acid). Prescribed by doctors. Kaya may bago ka nang dahilan para tumawa.

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

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Sagot sa sobrang sakit.

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Little Lives

By Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy
Photographs by Gerry Amoroso

The Man Who Would Be Judas

Another Holy Week over, Ruben Salvador resumes life as a barangay *tanod* after a rousing act as Judas Iscariot, a role he has played for his Paco parish for the past 22 years

Abe in full regalia as Judas, beside the patroness of the parish, the Virgin of Candelaria

HE HAS been directing traffic at the Paz-Herran (now Pedro Gil) intersection for so long that pedestrians, commuters and students from the nearby Paco Catholic School consider his mere presence reassuring. And with good reason.

At mid-afternoon, when droves of uniformed children troop out from classes and join the crowd massed along the sidewalk, they look to Ruben Salvador, 48, for safe passage. And without fail, he blows his whistle and executes his flawless hand signals, taming the chaotic traffic and holding the mechanized monsters at bay while the impatient multitude negotiates a safe transit across. How reminiscent of the Israelites walking over dry ground after the parting of the Red Sea!

The Biblical allusion applies to him in other ways, as well. Salvador or Abe, as he is fondly called, who has lived in the Paco community all his life, is a familiar figure during Lent. For the past 22 years, he has acted as the perennial Judas Iscariot in the community's annual parish Holy Week rituals. It is a role he plays with distinction, just as he has gained respect for being tanod of Barangay 684 Zone 74, whose civic duties range from directing traffic to making sure that residents throw their garbage and park their vehicles in designated areas, and pacifying hotheads in the neighborhood.

Traffic aide/*tanod*? Judas Iscariot? Despite the contrariness, both roles call for strict discipline, something that Abe has translated into a lifestyle. His work sees him waking up at the crack of dawn to join his oldest brother at their Paco market rice stall. A programmed schedule follows: A late breakfast. Midmorning traffic commitment. Consultations at the barangay hall. A brief after-

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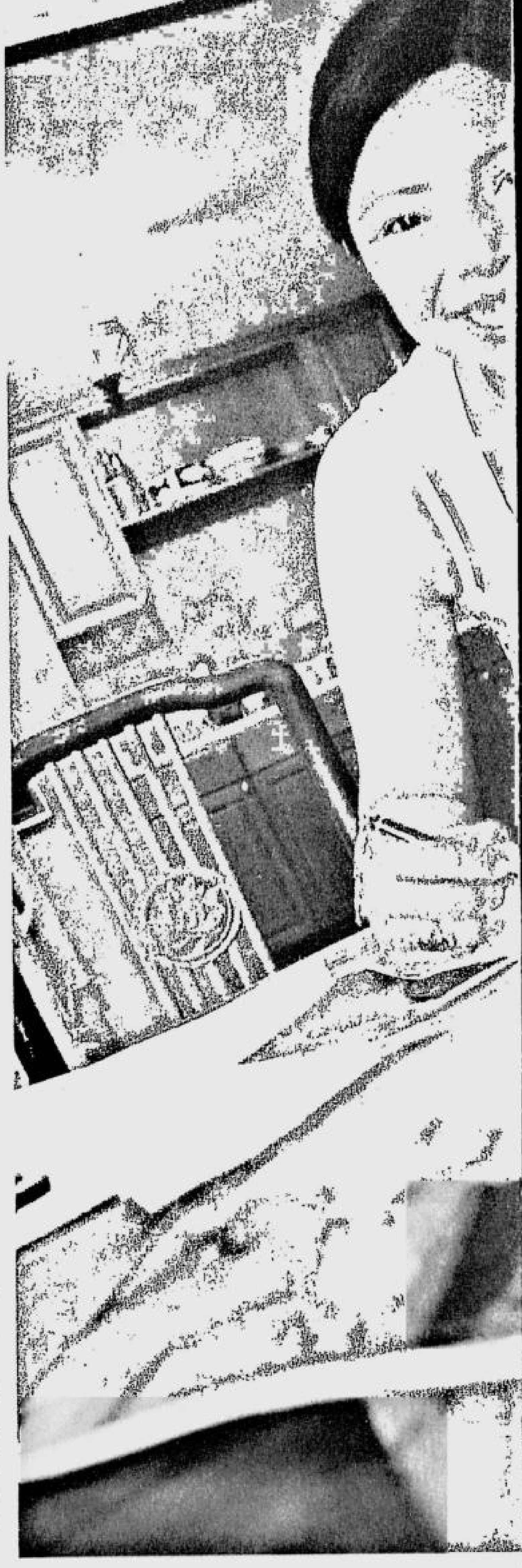
Stylewatch

By Joy Rojas

Richie's Riches

For designer and retailer Richie Ortega, who gave up a New York fashion career to come home, vintage blouses and designer jeans are but secondary to the ultimate fashion accessory: the right attitude



SEVERAL years ago, Richie Ortega, fashion designer's agent and partner of a hip line of T-shirts that sold well in 20 Saks Fifth Avenue stores across the United States, was armed with a bunch of parcels near her New York apartment, when a car suddenly slammed into her. Flat on her back, she recalls "all these people milling around me, telling me not to move. But I was forcing myself to get up because I had all these T-shirts I needed to ship. Thirty seconds later the ambulance arrives," she relates bemusedly. "High drama! I hate that!"

Although the freak accident left her with a broken collarbone, it made a greater impact elsewhere. Professionally unfulfilled despite representing the likes of Earl Jeans, Jean Paul Gaultier and Vivienne Westwood, Ortega found herself at the crossroads of a colorful career. "Spiritually, I wasn't happy. I didn't want to work for anyone but because of my visa, I was stuck with the company," admits Ortega, who tore a knee ligament in a skiing mishap five months earlier. "And even if I was constantly bombarded with people to meet and things to buy, I felt alone. I thought that was strange so I took the other direction. "

Fashionista favorite

By the other direction, she means Manila, where she returned in 2000 and almost immediately opened Souk (Arabic for open-air market) with her industrial designer partner Faye Dizon Cunanan. Set in the heart of Ortigas' bustling business district (2/F, The Crescent Building, San Miguel Avenue), Souk may have earned its outdoor signage only recently, but fashionistas known exactly where to go to score beaded vintage apparel and fashion brands boasting a fierce cult following. The shop is among the first to carry cool jean brands Earl, Seven and Citizens of Humanity, and has made a killing out of the popular Jelly bag. "I'd be sleeping and people would be texting me, asking when the new stock is arriving," laughs the retailer who markets the relatively more affordable version of the bag (P8,000 max) from Italy called Besso. Richly embellished slippers and Havaiana flip-flops with the Brazilian flag tag are also all the rage at Souk; in the coming months, Ortega predicts that Un Apres Midi De Chien, a line of chic bags with cargo pant-like pockets, will follow suit.

Local brands abound as well in the shop that opened its second branch in Estrella corner Zodiac street, Bel-Air, Makati. There are clothes by Tippi Ocampo, Tracy Anglo's 27 Ans, Mel La'O and Susan Calma's Circus, and Louis Claparols. Even Ortega's creations are just as appreciated. Since showcasing her collection of pretty beaded blouses, skirts and dresses, the designer has been tapped to produce her one-of-a-kind feminine wares and wedding gowns for Manila and Hong Kong's well-to-do. "It's fun and exciting that they get what we're trying to do," says a totally affirmed Ortega. Still, doesn't watching people pay as much as ten grand for a single pair of jeans remind her of her own spiritually empty shopping sprees in New York? "That's the thing: Filipinos have a good work ethic and those who spend a lot have their own businesses and are successful in their own way. Buying something expensive is just their way of rewarding themselves and I applaud them for that," she says. "I believe in quality over quantity. I'd rather buy one expensive pair of jeans rather than 15 *tiangge* finds that don't fit well anyway."

In other words, there's a reason why some clothes cost an arm and a leg. "*Naku*, just making my stuff alone, if you put it down on paper, profit-wise, it isn't much," she sighs. "That's one thing I don't like here: when people haggle you down. The want *tiangge* prices, they don't see the value in what you're doing. "

Fashion as art

For Ortega, learning the value of fashion came early. The younger of two girls, it was Patricia (her sister Pamela nicknamed her Richie after her favorite cartoon character Richie Rich) who sported the punk hairdos and the pins on her Catholic school girl's uniform in a time of MTV, New Wave music and Molly Ringwald's "Sixteen Candles." "There were celebrities in my head," she says, "like Christian Dior and Coco Chanel." Fashion would become a passion after Ortega chanced upon an article on Issey Mikaye in Time. "I thought fashion was just something froufrou, something that only the rich wore," she said. "But there was

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noon nap. His second battle with the traffic in mid-afternoon.

Self-discipline

Self-discipline also made Abe accept the role of Judas Iscariot that everybody else shunned. Reining in his initial diffidence, he took on the role in 1982, and has since stayed with the character. That he was not the original choice for the role invests his gesture with near-heroic quality.

It all started, he says, as an accident of circumstance, with the drawing of lots. The idea of drawing lots to determine the different Apostles' roles was introduced when Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani Jr. took over as parish priest in San Fernando de Dilao.

As a new member of the Cofradia, or the Confraternity of the Holy Sepulchre, the oldest parish association of men, Abe was invited to join other parishioners as that season's Chosen 12. Actually there were 13 of them, an odd circumstance that was to prove fortuitous later.

After the lots were drawn, each one read out the name he got. Abe drew the name of Judas Tadeo. Someone else got the Judas Iscariot slip.

That was when an uncomfortable silence fell on the group. The fellow who drew Iscariot's name fell silent for a long time, while everyone else fidgeted nervously. Then after much hedging, the guy who would have been Judas onstage stood up and announced he was quitting.

Abe stood up and declared. "*O, sige, ako na lang ang papalit* (Alright, I'll do it!)." The group looked at him, unbelieving, embarrassed and amused altogether. Why, Abe was virtually opting for the least popular choice! As if to stress his point, Abe added, "*At ako na rin ang gaganap na Hudas taon-taon, hangga't kailangan* (And I'll do every year, as long as I'm needed)."

The red robe

It had not been easy for Abe initially to assume the role. In his neighborhood, a typical crowded community of shacks, it was to be expected that he would become the butt of much ribbing. But that was only in the beginning. Eventually his new, controversial personality ceased to be a conversation piece.

During this year's Holy Week, Abe prepared once more for the role he has grown into. He brought out the plastic package containing his crimson robe, a garment he had washed, hung to dry, and ironed before putting it away the year before.

He gets to wear the robe only twice. First, on the morning of Palm Sunday, when he joins the other Apostles in the triumphal march to the makeshift stage at the corner of Sto. Sepulcro and Peñafrancia streets, where the current parish priest, Msgr. Domingo A. Cirilos Jr. presides over the blessing of palm fronds. And next, on the afternoon of Holy Thursday for the ceremonial Mass marking the Institution of the Holy Eucharist during which the priest, in imitation of Christ, washes the feet of the 12 Apostles. As Judas, Abe occupies the last of the 12 chairs on the elevated altar.

After the Mass, he and his fellow Apostles join in the solemn processional to escort the Sacred Host in a monstrance to the specially decorated Altar of Repose for the start of the Visita Iglesia devotions.

Then Judas disappears from the staged rituals, a symbolic reminder of how the tragic figure fled the public eye to inflict on himself his premature end.

Pallbearers

As for Abe, his involvement in parish activities takes yet another turn, as he plays the role of a member of the Samahan ng Mamamasan. He puts aside his crimson tunic and dons the official *mamamasan* red shirt. The Mamamasan is a group of barefooted pallbearers who take turns hoisting the image of the revered parish patron, Our Lord of the Holy Sepulchre, during the Good Friday parish-wide procession.

Before noon of Good Friday, Abe the *mamamasan* goes to the churchyard where the *carroza* (carriage) of the image stands. He checks the lights, changes the batteries, cleans the glass enclosure that will contain the reclining image and strings the long sampaguita garlands around the vehicle's interior. He helps arrange the bunches of fresh flowers all around the *carroza*, after which he and three others carry the venerated icon, now clothed in special vestments, from its niche inside the church to the now beautifully decorated carriage. It is also he who stands guard over the carriage to discourage over-eager devotees from prematurely filching the flowers.

When the procession finally emerges from the church premises, Abe joins the hushed multitudes, initially sharing the blessed burden with the barefoot pall bearers.

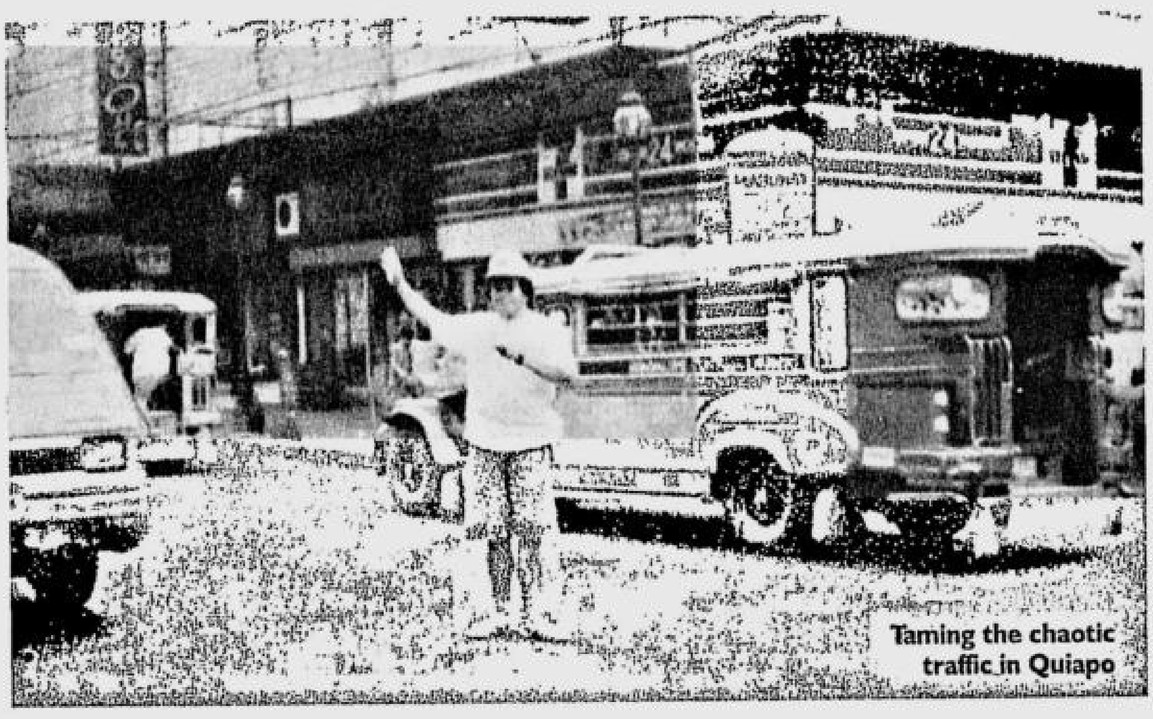
Serving the church

Such devotion to parish rituals speaks well of the religious upbringing instilled in him by his parents, Pablo Salvador and wife Rosalinda. Both are natives of Hagonoy, Bulacan, from where they had migrated to take up roots in Paco in the early 1920s. Both are now deceased. That their offspring, particularly Abe, continue to translate the couple's religiosity into active involvement in parish work is a tribute to the old man who had often advised his son to serve the Church.

Would life have been different had Abe followed other options in the early years? Possibly. After elementary studies at the Paco Catholic School and Jose Abad Santos School, Abe went on to finish his secondary education at Arellano University. He worked briefly at the Philippine General Hospital as a crewmember of the Piltel Janitorial Agency. He also took a casual job at the Purefoods Marikina factory. Who knows how life would have been had he gone on to other occupations, here in the country and possibly abroad?

But his mother passed away two years ago at age 83, leaving Abe—who has remained single—to share full responsibility with his older brother at the family rice stall.

On hindsight, one cannot but note how several ironies underscore Abe's life. Engaged in the rice business, money crosses his palm many times, just as 30 pieces of silver crossed that of Judas Iscariot. And then there's his name: Salvador. Ruben Salvador, savior. Q



Taming the chaotic traffic in Quiapo

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

more substance to it. It was creativity. Art." Upon graduating with a degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines, Ortega pursued further studies in New York, enrolling in a fashion merchandising course at Parsons School of Design. The Big Apple would be her residence for almost 10 years until her back-to-back accidents (and a quick trip to Boracay in 1998) convinced her to pack her bags and come home for good.

Books and travel

Life in these Islands apparently agrees with the former fashion designer's agent from New York. She exists in jeans and *tsinelas*, and would wear authentic vintage jewelry if she had to spruce up her wardrobe. "I'm on my down time," she announces brightly, "and I'm very happy!" Instead of going out, a habit she maintained nightly in New York, the single 30something would much rather read books by Latin-American authors, or travel, devoting a part of her year to some dreamy destination like India, Vietnam or Morocco. "I plan a trip for months on end, from where I'm going to stay to what I'm going to do," she smiles. "Next, I'd like to go to Africa or Scandinavia!" Of late, her trips have been to Mindoro and Palawan, where she and a few other designers have hooked up with an NGO to protect the crafts of local tribesmen. "It takes four months to weave a piece of *tinalak* cloth, and then it's sold for 300 bucks. It's a crime!" she exclaims. "How can you put a price on the art—and the heart—that goes into something like that? You're lucky you even have it! Our project is to design for these people, turn their crafts into world-class products and sell them internationally."

Consumed as she is about fashion—for a friend's recent wedding, she showed up in her own creation, a pretty pouf dress straight out of the '50s and sewn with vintage Thai silk—Ortega has never lost sight of the ultimate accessory. "Oh my God, it should be all about that: Attitude and confidence should really be the starting points of dressing up," she insists. "I think subconsciously people buy something special because it gives them an extra edge. It makes them feel good about themselves, and brings out their inner beauty." Q

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Theater Tales

The Ha Ha Handyman

By Ruel S. De Vera

Gabe Mercado, irrepressible comedian and leader of the SPIT comedy troupe, talks about a life of laughter—and hosting the country's first improv festival

RANDY HORMILLOSA

IMPROVISATIONAL comedy—improv for short—is, in its own ways, a blood sport. In front of audiences often indifferent and inebriated but sometimes downright hostile, improv practitioners shed pounds in sweat trying to get a laugh, with nothing but ideas sparked on the spot. There is nothing funny about the silence that greets a botched skit. It's not unlike the noiseless thoughts of a jester sent out to make the king laugh or die, without a rattle or even a funny hat. But when the jokes work, the world is ablaze in laughter and the comedian goes on to live another day.

This is the world of Gabriel "Gabe" Mercado, the 31-year-old ringmaster of SPIT (a.k.a. the Silly People's Improv Theater), the Metro's most dedicated improv troupe. Yet the bespectacled, rotund Mercado, the spitting image of a Lego figure come to life, is no doubt a familiar face. He's one of those actors whom you'll recognize on sight, either from his movie and TV roles, but most likely from his hilarious turns in TV ads for a brand of toilet paper (yes, that was an almost naked Mercado running out of the bathroom wrapped only in tissue) and for Yakult. "I get recognized for that all the time. Everybody says, 'Okay *ka ba tiyan?!*,'" he says in amusement.

Yet the funny story that has led Mercado to a life as full-time improv leader is not only unusual, it's actually, well, somewhat historical.

Humor and history

Mercado is the sixth in the brood of seven of Basic Advertising's late powerhouse Tony Mercado and writer/editor Monina Allarey Mercado. Hard as it is to believe today, Mercado used to be tiny. "I weighed about 30 pounds until I was in grade two," he says. He was so small, in fact, he could be stuffed into a small cubbyhole. "I enjoyed being stuffed in the hole," he says. "It was a chance to amaze people."

Mercado thinks he became a funny child as a means to stand out while attending Southridge School. In fifth grade, he was recruited by Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. to perform in one of Reuter's plays, and soon, Mercado became a veritable "Reuter Baby." His brother and father had both acted for Reuter, as well. Aside from appearing in Reuter's plays, he would also make his television debut on "Sta. Zita and Mary Rose."

Another place where Mercado might seem familiar from is a famous photograph from the 1986 Edsa uprising which depicts the 12-year-old Mercado with older brother Paolo, helping broadcaster June Keithley rally the people from the embattled Radio Veritas station. "I'm proud of the part I played, but it's also no big deal. We were manning the radios and later reports would say that we were on the brink of liquidation, but so were a lot of people that day, standing in front of tanks."

Taking up Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo, Mercado filled out. The former track athlete gained something like 50 lbs from cafeteria food. By that time, he had developed a dizzying array of comedic skills, from witty and intellectual retorts to gutter-level pronouncements. Mercado could make anybody laugh. He also became a regular in Tanghalang Ateneo (TA) plays, in both serious and comedic roles. Though known for his wacky nature, there was also a more soulful, reflective side to his personality. "I pulled myself together in third year after some Jesuits helped me clean up my act, and that added depth to my humor. I would definitely describe my humor as self-deprecating. Humor is an incredible tool. We should laugh about what's there instead of feeling bad about it."

Back to the screen

After college, Mercado worked for the lay organization Christian Life Community of the Philippines, giving recollections to kids. He then worked for Basic for some time. He even had a stint farming in Laguna. It was when he returned to the Ateneo to do some plays for TA that ABS-CBN's Dave Fabros picked him to be managed by the ABS-CBN Talent Center. Soon came the movie roles (among them Richard Gomez's womanizing friend in *"Minsan Minahal Kita"*) and TV roles (in sitcoms such as *"Eto Na Ang Susunod na Kabanata"* and *"Pwedeng Pwede"*), as well as hosting chores on Studio 23's "Points of View" and the aforementioned commercials.

Incidentally, Mercado and some close friends made an interesting foray into recording when they formed the band called DaPULIS. "These songs were fun," he says. "These were the ultimate expression of us sticking up to the world and saying, 'ha ha!'" The group's funny songs, such as *"Paa,"* gained pretty good airplay and led to three albums. "But the rock star life really wasn't for me," Mercado explains, adding that even if the songs were jokes, they were serious in the studio. "The official state of the band now is *tinatamad* (lazy)."

While he performs at town fiestas as a comedian, Mercado says he wasn't comfortable with getting a lot of money to sing a few songs and get laughs by insulting people in the audience. "I felt I could give more for what I was being paid and I didn't want to go down the road of insulting others," he says. While on a trip to Singapore to shoot a sitcom in 2000, Mercado was browsing at a Borders book store when he found a book called "Truth in Comedy."

The concept embodied in the book's title struck him. The book also contained details on improv. A long-time fan of the British improv show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", Mercado found his enthusiasm for the comedy form being revved up. "Improv is more similar to a sporting event than the comedy acts that people see in the Philippines," Mercado explains. "Nothing scripted, nothing rehearsed, nothing prepared in advance and nothing repeated." The players, as performers are called, are given challenges by the audience. The players then hopefully, according to Mercado, "get through a scene or game structure with grace and chutzpah."

Mercado has also been blessed with a perfect partner in wife Beepsie Mayuga, (a professional clown/party host) whom he met, fittingly enough, when they both appeared on the now-defunct ABS-CBN News Channel talk show called "The Strip." It was a match made in hehe-heaven; the two married a year later, on June 30, 2001. Eagle-eyed viewers may have actually seen the couple in action as the Mercados hosted six episodes of a show called "Lakbay Now" on Lakbay TV.

Learning to SPIT

These two, however, are still going strong and silly. This is how crazy they are: For their honeymoon, the two attended a workshop with founder of the American improv movement, Paul Sills. Six months after returning from their honeymoon, Mercado received a phone call from two close friends: Redford White (yes, *that* Redford White), and Leo Martinez (yes, *that* Leo Martinez). "Basically, they said, 'You attended a workshop with Paul Sills and you're doing nothing,'" Mercado remembers. "'Shame on you.'" So Martinez got Mercado in touch with some actors. Acting as mad scientist for this experiment, Mercado found some live bodies of his own as well and from this raw material, SPIT was soon spat out.

SPIT began invading Metro nightspots with their improv style, eventually becoming a regular at the late, lamented comedy bar The Comfort Room, where the group would pack the crowds in every Tuesday night. Mercado was surprised by the warm reception they received. He thinks some of it had to do with the fact that the American version of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" was being aired on local cable. "So the audience sort of knew what we were trying to do," he explains. But SPIT also brought its own energy and pioneering spirit to the stage every night. "Sixty percent of our games were original creations." Mercado is also proud of the number of private shows SPIT got asked to do. "December," he says. "Wow, two shows a day." SPIT also conducts improvisation-based training for corporate clients.

Even as SPIT soon promises to appear in a new regular venue near you, Mercado is conducting his greatest scheme yet: the country's first-ever improv comedy festival, dubbed "Spontaneous Combustion." The event features a cavalcade of workshops conducted by American improv star Ed Reggi. There will, of course, be nightly performances by SPIT, the Bacolod-based Kinenkoy Comedy Express, Kidlat, and the Philippine Playhouse, among others. "It's a coming out party for the improv scene that serves notice to the world that it is a major art form," he explains.

The SPIT express keeps rolling along as well, as Mercado says the group's members are set to leave in June for the Los Angeles Improv Festival. "The Philippine live comedy scene right now consists of singing and insulting. There is a mean streak to it. Improv comedy still has that mean streak, but it's not directed at the audience, it's the performer who's on the line."

Away from the stage, Mercado is enjoying married life with Beepsie. In his increasingly endangered spare time, Mercado enjoys badminton and tinkering with his computers. But except for the occasional show biz spot, Mercado has turned his professional life over to improv. "I could be making more money doing something else, but this is it for me. A lot of my eggs are in this basket."

Room to Improv

He never thought he would make a living out of his comedy. And for someone who's switched from one thing to another so many times, it's no laughing matter. "I honestly think I've found it because I have never worked harder at anything else in my life, I've never been happier and it's hard to find truer friends than the ones I've met with SPIT," he says, adding that he enjoys the pioneering element as well. It's something he can see himself doing for years to come.

Like the benevolent overmaster of jocularity, Gabe Mercado dreams of the day when SPIT sends forth legions of improv players on a nightly effort to coax the audience to giggle, guffaw, chuckle, snigger, chortle, roar, cackle, or all of the above, all at once. Improv, he says, will last, because improv not only tells a story through laughter, but "it's (also) a great community experience. I would even venture that it may last longer than the type of comedy acts we see now because, on its own, it is neutral. It can be incredible, wholesome and hilarious."

"Spontaneous Combustion: The First Philippine Improv Comedy Festival" runs from April 13 to 17 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Tickets available at the gate and National Bookstore branches. For inquiries, call 0917-5327665 or e-mail spit@cwazy.co.uk.

This Week

Art

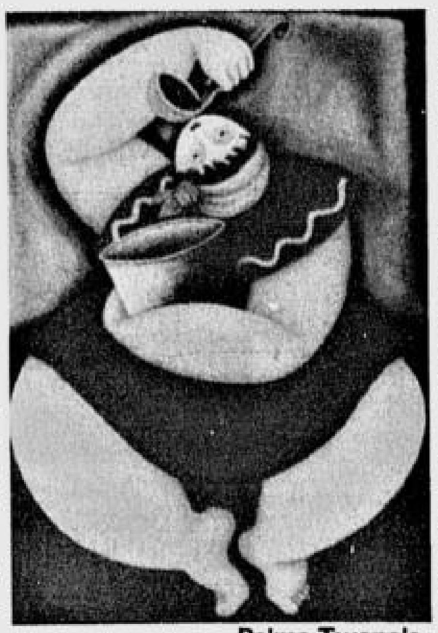
Fred Baldemor interprets "The Passion of the Christ" in his recent works at the Artistree Fine Art Gallery, Art Plaza, 4/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall until April 18.

Nostalgia: Laguna, Images of the Past, Captured at Present, an exhibit of black and white photographs of century-old and historical churches and houses in Laguna province by the Alpha Camera Club, at The Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library until April 21.

Paradox of Silence, a photo exhibit by Briccio Santos at the Mag:net Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, cor. Sedeno St., Makati City from April 14-22.

Art, Actually, a joint exhibit of works by Bin Samonte and Palma Tayona from April 13-25 at Gallery Nine, 4/L, SM Megamall A.

Stay for a While, a painting and sculpture exhibit by Dionesio Gonzales, until April 30 at Alliance Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.



Palma Tayona's "Mystic Quiver," on view at Gallery Nine

Music

The Israeli group **Seeds of Sun** will be visiting the country from April 19-23. The group will feature a fusion of eastern music with western influences on known jazz favorites and at the same time introducing Israeli music. It will perform in Makati City and Cebu City in celebration of the 56th Independence Day of the State of Israel. For details, call 894-0441.

The lineup of **performers at Fiesta San Miguel** of Dusit Hotel Nikko this month includes Route 70, Mondays; Prime Council, Tuesdays; Moonstrucks, Wednesdays; Pido and Take One back-to-back with Retrospect, Thursdays; George back-to-back with Route 70, Fridays and Red Velvet, Saturdays.

Piano man **Martin Avila** performs regularly at the Manila Peninsula Lobby (Monday and Tuesday, 2:30-5:30 p.m. and Thursday and Friday, 12-2:30 p.m.), Dusit Hotel Lobby (Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 5:30-8 p.m.), Intercon Hotel Lobby (Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 3-6 p.m.) At night, he accompanies singers at the Monet Bar of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:30-11:30 p.m.) For bookings and inquiries, contact 776-0419 or 0917-8177955.

Acoustic music lovers can now enjoy soothing music earlier than usual as Coco Cabana presents its **After-Hours Live Acoustic nights** this month starting at 7:30 p.m. Featured performers are Joy & Bevs (Tuesdays), Infloence (Wednesdays), Acoustic Anthology (Thursdays), Sumthin' Infinite (Fridays) and Lucid (Saturdays). Coco Cabana is at 8465 Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City (near Rockwell Center). For details, call 896-8763 or text 0927-304-8991.

Iyengar yoga teacher Clé Souren comes to Manila

Cinema

Pelikula@titusbrandsma presents "Man Bites Dog" by Remy Belvaux, "Obra" by Chris Manjares, "Bowling for Columbine" by Michael Moore and "Hate" by Matthieu Kassovitz on April 17 at 1 p.m. at Titus Brandsma Center (24 Acacia Drive, Cubao, Quezon City). For details, call 721-8677 / 726-7763 (Jofti).

Atbp

The Catholic Biblical Association will hold **Biblical Greek and Hebrew language classes** from April 14-May 26. Greek will be offered from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Hebrew from 2-5 p.m. Registration is on April 12-13. For details, call the Loyola School of Theology Registrar's Office at 426-6430 and look for Rowena Maquiling.

Clé Souren, Amsterdam-based senior Iyengar international teacher and personal student of Guruji, B.K. S. Iyengar, will be teaching six **Iyengar Yoga workshops** on May 21-24, 2004 at the Manila Polo Club. Schedule is May 21 (Friday), 6-8 p.m., General Class; May 22 (Saturday), 10 a.m.-12 nn, Beginner Class, and 2:30-4:430 p.m, General Class; May 23 (Sunday), 10 a.m.-12 nn, Beginner Class; and 2:30-4:30 p.m., General Class. Clé will start with the basic asana poses and move to pranayama, philosophy and meditation over the course of the weekend, thereby allowing the student to experience a full yoga practice during this intensive training period. An advanced student/teacher workshop will also be offered on Monday, May 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For further information, please visit Clé's website at http://www.xs4all.nl/ ~iyoga or contact Fitness International at 884-1161 or e-mail fitness@johnclements.com.

LaSalle College International (Manila) offers a **diploma course in Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing** as well as certificates in Fashion Buyer, Patternmaking and Styling. Interested parties may view the student's latest fashion exhibit at the ground floor, Bloomingdale Building, 205 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Enrollment ongoing at the same venue. Classes start on April 19. For details, call Weng Beloso at 840-1543, 840-1476 and 849-1498.

Visual artist and teacher **Victor Bella** is offering a **Summer Art Workshop** at the Activity Center of MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio in Global City, Taguig starting April 20. The workshop will feature drawing, painting and sculpture lessons for kids and adults. Registration starts April 12. For inquiries, call 815-4759, 818-1265 or 818-1256 loc. 107 or 115.

Speak Up!, **University of the Philippines' annual theater and speech training program** is now accepting participants to its workshops this summer. The theater workshop will be held from April 19 to May 11 while the speech training will be held from April 19 to April 30 at the Tanghalang Hermogenes Ylagan and Guerrero Theater in UP Diliman. At the end of the workshops, the theater participants will mount full-length theater productions complete with costumes and lights while the speech training participants will either present oral interpretation pieces or deliver speeches. For details, call DSCTA at 924-3224, 924-8589 or 920-5301 loc. 7450.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

A **seminar on The Science of Mind and Man** will be held from April 19-23 at the 3/F, Gold Condominium, 15 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan. For inquiries, call 721-3355, 721-3357 or 721-1407.

The Alcove Photo Gallery offers **photography course for beginners** through the week-long workshop, Photo 101. Registration runs until April 13. Participants will be required to bring a 135-format film-based SLR, Rangefinder or digital camera with manual exposure control. The Alcove is located at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City (across The Peninsula Manila). For details, call 892-1801.

Israeli group Seeds of Sun performs in Makati and Cebu

Gantimpala Theater Foundation announces its last call for enrollment to its **Summer Musical Theater Workshops** on April 14-May 29 at the Rehearsal Hall of the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. Classes offered are Children's Musical Theater and Musical Theater for Teens and Adults. Enrollees must bring a 2 x 2 color picture. Tuition fee is P5,000 inclusive of recital expenses. For inquiries, call 536-5860 and 528-0603.

X-manila

The **6th Kamarikutan Pagdiwata Arts Festival** will be held on April 11-17 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan featuring various art workshops (Basic & Advanced Drawing, Basic & Advanced Painting, Bead Craft, Terra Cotta, Philippine Indigenous Instruments, Drumming, Temporary Tattoo, Basic Photography, Basic Video Production Techniques) and performances by Bayang Barrios, Edru Abraham & Kontra Gapi, Mitu's Tribe, Palawan Dance Theater, Tribung Kudlong, Janis Gordola & Soundoze, Calamay Hati, and Yaga'k Tabon. For details, call Kamarikutan Kape at Galeri, Rizal Avenue Extension, Puerto Princesa, Palawan at (048) 433-5182.

Statements, a group exhibit featuring paintings and sculptures by Raul Isidro, Ros Arcilla, Eliezer Dimaculangan, Aurea Farolan, Danny Garcia, Jose Hombrebuena, Alfonso Oliva, Elmer Oliva, Raul Piedra, Rodel Rillera, Nathaniel Rimando, Ronald Ruiz, Roland Yumang and E.R. Tagle, until May 3 at Full Moon Art Cafe Gallery, California Ave., Canaoay, San Fernando, La Union.

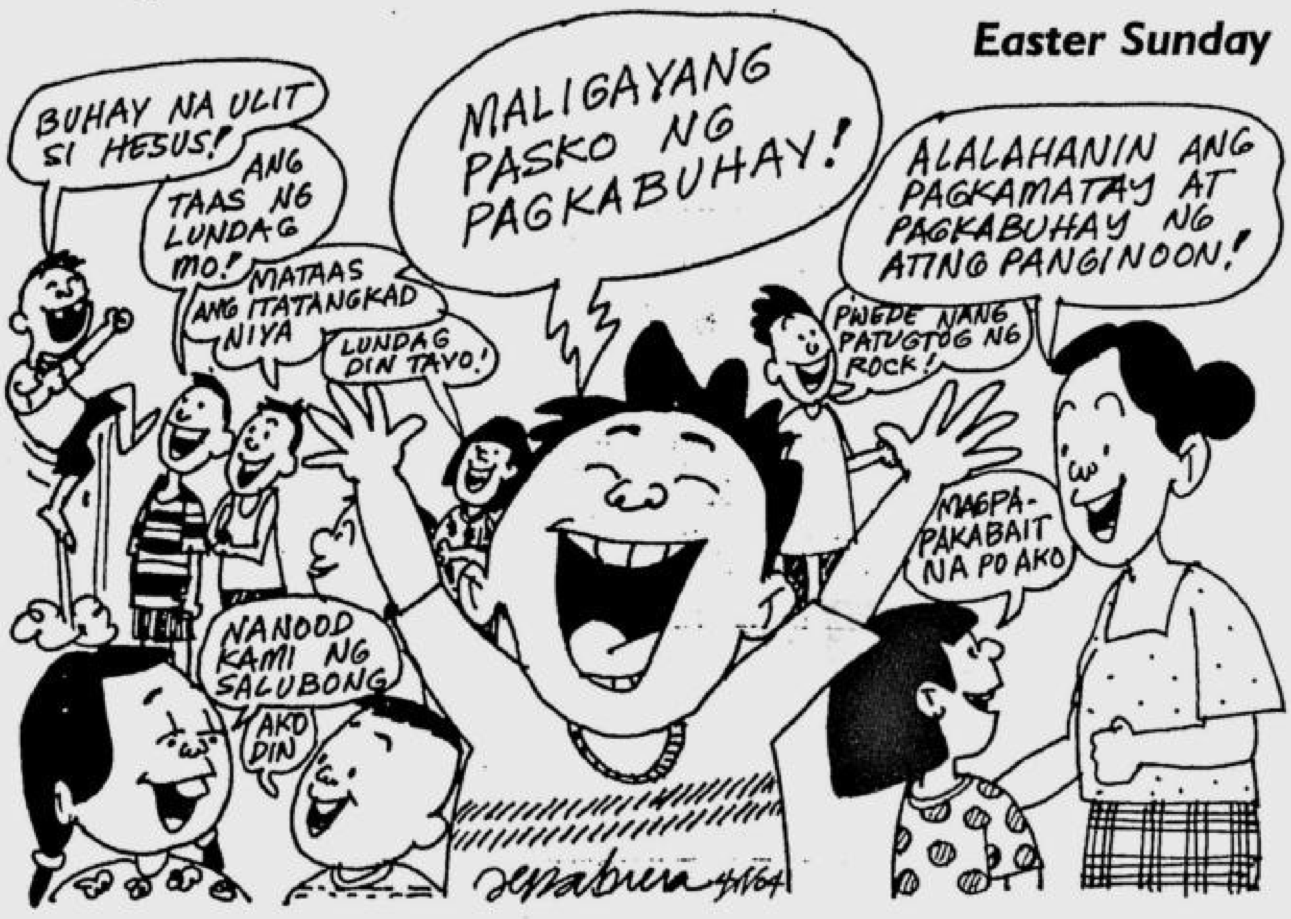
Intensive Journal Workshop, a method of journal keeping will be given by Sr. Dolores Mitch M.M. at Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, Baguio City on April 19 to 24. A new Life-Study Journal Method will also be given on May 22-23. For details, call (074) 442-4602 or 442-4926 during office hours. Another journal workshop will be held at the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies in Cubao, QC on May 3 to 8. Call 724-7173 or 721-9932 for inquiries.

Our House Kids' Creative Summer Art Workshop, a fun and creative three-day stay-in workshop from April 30 to May 2 for kids 6–12 years old with interactive activities like drawing, hand painting, arts & crafts, dance, storytelling, games ahd music. Workshop fee of P3,000 is inclusive of a shirt, workshop kit, meals and dorm accommodations at Fairmont Subdivision, Antipolo City. For details, please text or call 0927-4429237 or email our_house@yahoo.com.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Easter Sunday


BUHAY NA ULIT SI HESUS!
ANG TAAS NG LUNDAG MO!
MATAAS ANG ITATANGKAD NIYA
LUNDAG DIN TAYO!
MALIGAYANG PASKO NG PAGKABUHAY!
PWEDE NANG PATUGTOG NG ROCK!
ALALAHANIN ANG PAGKAMATAY AT PAGKABUHAY NG ATING PANGINOON!
MAGPA-PAKABAIT NA PO AKO
NANOOD KAMI NG SALUBONG
AKO DIN

Love Notes

By Joe D' Mango

The Secret That Changed Everything

I thought about telling Ron about the whole thing, thinking that he would accept me because he loved me. I was wrong

Dear Joe,

One night, I got a missed call from an unfamiliar number. So I called it and learned it was Ron, my long-time schoolmate. We exchanged text messages and he began calling me up. I found it ironic that Ron and I were schoolmates in elementary and high school but it was only in college, when we were already studying in different universities, that we became really close. It made me think that there might be a purpose behind these things, that he's the man I have long been praying for.

We went into our relationship slowly as we knew we had our whole lives to spend together. We were so sure that whatever happened, nothing could break us apart. We were wrong.

There is something in my past that bothers me every time I see Ron. It was in February when I met Adrian, a schoolmate of Ron's. He is good-looking, nice and sweet. We went out only once but he easily earned my trust. One night, he invited me to come with him to his house to meet his family. But when we reached his house there was no one there. I got nervous but I did not think that he was going to do me any harm. To cut the story short, I was forced to lose my virginity that night. I went home crying. Worst of all, he didn't even try to get in touch with me after that, but I had no choice but to move on.

I thought about telling Ron about the whole thing, thinking that he would be able to understand and accept me because he loved me. I was wrong. When I told him about it, he found it hard to understand and accept what had happened. Everything changed. One night, he told me that maybe the best thing to do for us to make up for what had happened was to do the same thing so we would have our own memories to cherish instead of having that bad memory in mind. Because I love him, I would have done anything not to lose him.

Right after that, we felt good and thought that we could move on, but as days passed, the memories of my past still kept haunting Ron. Our relationship right now is on an "on-and-off" basis. We once pictured ourselves growing old together but now it seems that the picture is starting to fade. We can't decide what is best for us.

Sincerely,
Rainne

Dear Rainne,

We know that many men still consider virginity a very delicate issue. Fortunately, this makes women more careful with their encounters. But for many young women who have lost it for hundreds of possible reasons, this becomes a dilemma. I think a man's ego is predominantly responsible for the sensitive reaction to this issue.

Rainne, I expected Ron's response to your revelation. I believe that most men would initially react negatively about it. But what separates those who truly love you would be their acceptance and understanding. It is unfair to judge women because they are not pure anymore. Not because someone got a woman first doesn't mean that she is unworthy of being loved and respected.

If you think that doing it with Ron will make him understand, believe me—it won't. True, sex is a binding experience but that isn't what relationships are made of. Being honest about our past is a good way to start a relationship. This gives us complete closure to whatever guilt feelings we might have kept inside. But it also makes us vulnerable to judgment and rejection.

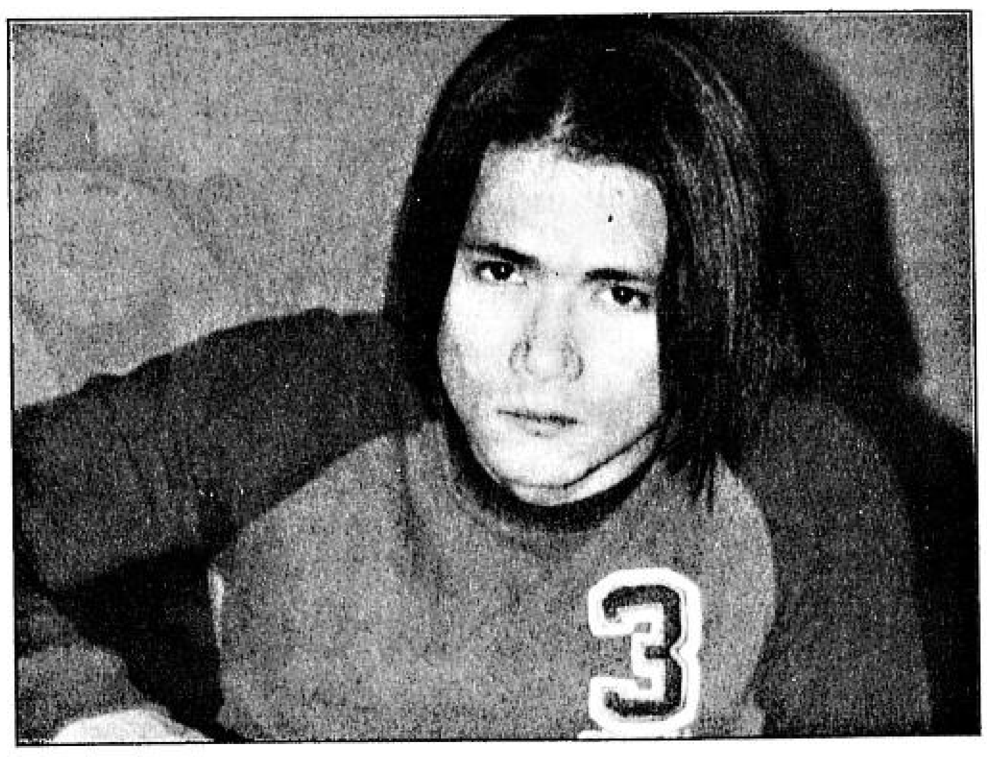
Rainne, the only way for Ron to be at peace with this issue is to accept the fact that he was not the first and he cannot do anything to change that. Believe me, if a man truly loves you that wouldn't matter in the end. True love erases all our blemishes and always give us a chance for a fresh start. Tell him that he cannot live with the burden of that memory and continue to be in this relationship at the same time. He has to give one up.

Rainne, if Ron cannot accept your past, then there is no point in his being part of your future. But if he truly loves you and wants to keep your relationship then he has to let go of the haunting memories of yesterday, fight for love and accept you for who you are now. There is no other way to go but this. Remember, you cannot keep a man by sleeping with him and giving him everything he wants. A man will stay because he wants to and because he loves you. These are the only reasons why he should be there. Otherwise, he would be in someone else's arms.

Rainne, this is the ultimate test for your relationship. If Ron stays, he would do so because he loves you. If he doesn't, then it means that there is someone else who will love you for who you are and not who they want you to be.

For the first time, Robin gets into martial arts action

Action superstar enjoys new experience working with top HK director and Jacky Chan's stuntmen in the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC



Robin on the New Argentina Extra Long Shreds TVC: "It's a great learning experience for me."

There are action-film actors and there are action stars: Robin Padilla belongs to the second group. The superstar has made a career out of playing the lovable tough guy, and with his rugged good looks and polite speech, Robin has endeared himself to most Filipinos.

Like any other *artista*, Robin has also been dragged into more than his share of headline-grabbing intrigues, often involving his romantic life. "I don't know why I always get involved in intrigues and rumors," mused Robin. "It's just a good thing that my wife and kids are abroad so they don't have to deal with my showbiz life." Though being separated from his family pains Robin, the actor always makes it a point to visit them as much as possible.

To keep himself entertained, Robin indulges in watching action movies, a favorite pastime. He also gets to catch up on his reading in his spare time. "I like suspense thrillers, like Tom Clancy's novels. Mario Puzo's books are also a favorite. Lately, I've also been reading Mark Bowden."

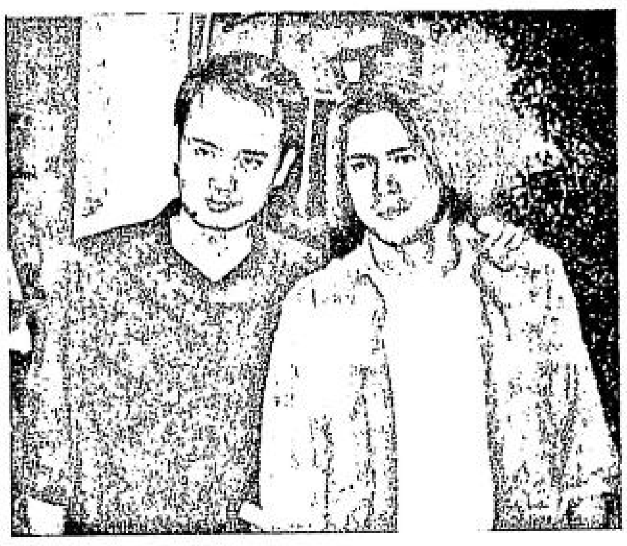
Enjoying his favorite meal of Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds.

Robin also immerses himself into his work. "I'm doing this for my family. Besides why should I wallow in self-pity when I could be doing something more productive." Most of Robin's time is devoted to his TV series. So though it has been more than a year since Robin has been seen in a movie, fans nevertheless get their fix of the actor five days a week in the teleserye *"Basta't Kasama Kita"*.

"The show's taping keeps me busy six days a week," related Robin. "And because I play a cop in the series, we even have police training on other days, so my schedule is pretty full."

But Robin is very eager to be back in the silver screen. "I have lots of offers lined up, so I'm just waiting for a break in my TV schedule before I fully commit to shooting for a movie." And while he has been recently seen in romantic comedy films, Robin said he would like to go back to his original movie genre. "I really like doing action films, so I'll probably focus on those types of scripts.'

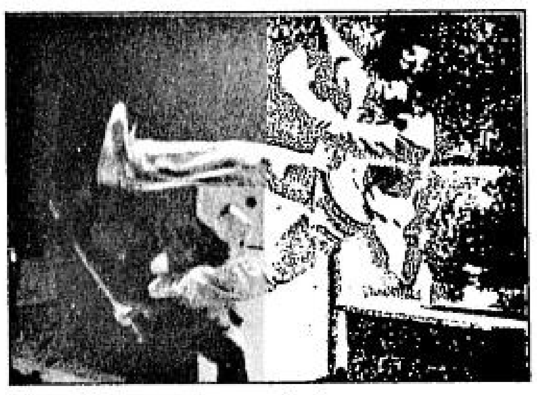
Apart from the TV series, fans will also delight in seeing Robin in the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TV commercial (TVC). The TVC, megged by award-winning Hong Kong director Alexi Tan, introduces a feature-film look never before done in local commercials.



With top Hongkong director Alexi Tan.

In the TVC, Robin gets into action far from what people usually expect in a Robin flick. Here, he goes kung fu fighting with ninjas out to disrupt his meal of Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. What? Robin doing kung fu?

"Well, it's definitely a brand new experience for me," related Robin. "I had to learn basic kung fu moves – and believe me, it's not as easy as it looks." Giving Robin pointers is a crew of martial arts experts who flew in from Hong Kong especially for this TVC. "These guys worked with Jacky Chan, and I'm really glad they were so patient with me as I learned my moves."



Extra long, action-packed scenes.

The TVC's director Alexi Tan was all praises for Robin. "He's a really great action star to work with. He's very knowledgeable of the action cinema language." Robin, for his part, stressed that, "as an action film actor, I have to know the new moves as well as the new films. I'm an actor who loves action films."

The action-packed TV commercial introduces the corned beef brand's newest variant, the Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. It is made only from hi-grade imported beef carefully selected and hashed to achieve longer beef shreds. Sourced from the best cattle capitals and generously blended with select spices and seasonings, it has the same delightfully premium taste of the original Argentina Corned Beef we've always loved.

"The new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds really has a taste worth fighting for," Robin enthused. A corned beef fan, Robin also revealed that "Argentina is one of my favorite food for breakfast. Plus, it's Halal food so I can eat as much as I want without straying from my religious duties."

So, what's next for Robin? "Hopefully, by next year, I'll have a movie out," he said. "And I wouldn't mind if I do some kung fu, just like in my Argentina TV commercial."